

Vol. XVI.



Council Proceedings
Official Report

Bengal Legislative Council

Sixteenth Session, 1924

26th & 27th August, 1924

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1924.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

**His Excellency the Right Hon'ble VICTOR ALEXANDER GEORGE ROBERT
BULWER-LYTTON, Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.I.E.**

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

**The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM, Kt., Vice-President, in charge of the
following portfolios:—**

1. Judicial.
2. Emigration.
3. Immigration.
4. Jurisdiction.
5. Legislative.
6. Haj Pilgrimage.

**The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., in charge of the
following portfolios:—**

1. Appointment.
2. Political (excluding Haj Pilgrimage).
3. Police.
4. Jails.
5. Ecclesiastical.
6. European Education.

**The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur in charge of
the following portfolios:—**

1. Land Revenue.
2. Land Acquisition.
3. Forests.
4. Irrigation.
5. Excluded Areas.

**The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON, C.I.E., I.C.S., in charge of the following
portfolios:—**

1. Finance.
2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and Reserved Industrial Subjects.
4. Marine.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Maulvi ABUL KASIM FAZL-UL HUQ, in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Education.
2. Medical.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. ABDUL KARIM ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI, in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Agriculture and Public Works.
2. Local Self-Government and Public Health.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. COTTON, C.I.E.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Major HASSAN SUHRAWARDY, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Panel of Chairmen for the Sixteenth Session.

KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY.

SIR WILLOUGHBY CAREY, KT.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ.

Secretary to the Council—J. BARTLEY, I.C.S. •

Assistant Secretaries to the Council—A. M. HUTCHISON, and K. N.
MAJUMDAR.

Registrar to the Council—J. W. MCKAY (on leave), M. MUKHERJI
(officiating).

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Addams-Williams, Mr. C., C.I.E. (Nominated official.)
Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Tayebuddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed, Maulvi Zannoor. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Sayyed Sultan. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Altaf. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]

B

Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Baksh, Maulvi Kader. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Band, Mr. R. N. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Babu Satya Kishore. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Banerjee, Mr. A. C. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra. (Nominated Non-official.)
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M.B.E. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bartop, Mr. H. (Anglo-Indian.)
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Beg, Khan Bahadur Mirza Shuja'at Ali. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna. (Calcutta University.)

C

Carey, Sir Willoughby, Kt. (Indian Mining Association.)
Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Chakravorti, Babu Jogindra Chandra. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chakravorty, Babu Sudarsan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, C.I.E. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhury, Maulvi Saiyed Abdur Rob. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]

- Choinuddin, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
 Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra. [Calcutta North Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Cohen, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Non-official.)
 Cooper, Mr. C. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
 Corcoran, Mr. B. J. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
 Currie, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

D

- Das, Babu Charu Chandra. (Nominated Non-official.)
 Das, Dr. Mohini Mohon. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Das, Mr. C. R. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Daud, Mr. M. (Nominated Non-official.)
 Dey, Babu Boroda Prosad. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Dey, Mr. G. G. (Nominated Official.)
 Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J., C.S.I., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
 Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal, M.B.E. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Dutt, Mr. G. S. (Nominated Official.)

E

- Eddis, Mr. B. E. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
 Emerson, the Hon'ble Mr. T., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)

F

- Faroqui, Khan Bahadur, K. G. M. (Nominated Non-official.)
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

- Gafur, Maulvi Abdul. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
 Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan. [Minister, Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
 Godfrey, Sir George, Kt. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
 Goenka, Babu Badridas. (Bengal Marwari Association.)
 Goode, Mr. S. W. (Nominated Official.)

Gordon, Mr. A. D. (Indian Tea Association.)
 Guha, Mr. P. N. (Nominated Non-official.)

H

Haldar, Mr. S. N. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Haq, Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]
 Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
 Heard, Major General R., C.I.E., M.D., K.H.S. (Nominated Official.)
 Hoque, Maulvi Sayedal. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
 Hossain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharruf. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
 Hossain, Maulvi Wahed. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
 Huq, Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
 Huq, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul. [Minister, Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. F. E. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
 Jameson, Mr. A. K. (Nominated Official.)
 Joardar, Maulvi Aftab Hossain. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]

K

Khaitan, Babu Debi Prosad. (Nominated Non-official.)
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Khan, Maulvi Abdur Raschid. [Noakhali (Muhammadan).]
 Khan, Maulvi Amanat. [Chittagong (Muhammadan).]
 Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]

L

Lal Mahammed, Haji. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
 Law, Raja Reshee Case, C.I.E. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
 Liddell, Mr. H. C. (Nominated Official.)

M

Mahammad, Maulvi Basar. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
 Maity, Babu Mahendra Nath. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Marr, Mr. A., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)
 Masih, Mr. Syed M. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
 Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Mitra, Babu Satyendra Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Mitter, Sir Provash Chunder, Kt., C.I.E. (Presidency Landholders.)
 Moberly, Mr. A. N., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

Moreno, Dr. H. W. B. (Anglo-Indian.)
 Morgan, Mr. G. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
 Mukerjea, Babu Taraknath. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Mukerji, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Non-official.)

N

Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Nazimuddin, Khaje. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
 Neogi, Babu Manmohon. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]

O

Oaten, Mr. E. F. (Nominated Official.)

P

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
 Phelps, Mr. T. J. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
 Philip, Mr. J. Y. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Q

Quader, Maulvi Abdul. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]

R

Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur., Kt. (Member, Executive Council.)
 Rahman, Mr. A. F. (Dacca University.)
 Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ray, Babu Anilbaran. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Ray, Kumar Shib Shekareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)
 Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra. (Member, Executive Council).
 Roy Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath. [Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Roy, Babu Satcowripati. [Calcutta North-West (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]

Roy, Mr. D. N. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Roy, Mr. S. N. (Nominated Official.)
 Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhusan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
 Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh, C.I.E. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Roy Chaudhury, Babu Brajendra Kishore. (Dacca Landholders.)
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
 Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Sarkar, Maulvi Allah Buksh. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
 Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Sasmal, Mr. B. N. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Sen, Mr. N. C. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
 Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)
 Skinner, Mr. S. A. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
 Suhrawardy, Dr. A. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
 Suhrawardy, Major Hassan. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
 Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]
 Swan, Mr. J. A. L. (Nominated Official.)

T

Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]
 Travers, Mr. W. L., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]

V

Villiers, Mr. Edward. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

W

Woodhead, Mr. J. A. (Nominated Official.)

Y

Yasin, Maulvi Muhammad. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Sixteenth Session.)

VOLUME XVI.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the
provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta,
on Tuesday, the 26th August 1924, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members
of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 129 nominated
and elected members.

Oath or Affirmation.

The following members made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

MAJOR-GENERAL R. HEARD,
MR. J. A. WOODHEAD,
MR. S. W. GOODE,
MR. A. K. JAMESON,
MR. W. C. CURRIE,
MR. S. A. SKINNER,
MR. R. N. BAND,
MR. T. J. PHELPS,
MR. C. R. DAS,
MR. F. E. JAMES,
MR. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI,
MR. B. E. G. EDDIS.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Gentlemen, in accordance with the provisions of rule 3 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules, 1920, I have nominated the following members to form a panel of four Chairmen, viz., Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, Sir Willoughby Carey, Babu Jatindra Nath Basu and Maulvi Ekramul Huq. Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the order named will preside over the deliberations of this Council in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy President.

Deaths of past members.

Mr. PRESIDENT: GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,—It is my melancholy duty according to the practice of this Council to offer the last tribute to the memory of four past Members of the Council whose loss we have lately had to deplore.

Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, who died at Patna on May 25th, at the age of 60, represented the Calcutta University on the Council from the year 1899 to the year 1903, and from August, 1903, to June, 1904, he represented the Corporation of Calcutta. In June, 1904, he was appointed a Judge of the High Court and in 1920 officiated as Chief Justice of Bengal. Nor were these his only public services, for from 1906 he filled the office of Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University almost continuously until last year. He was in every sense of the word a great Bengali, and those of us who were privileged to enjoy his friendship can testify to the wide diversity of interests in which he excelled. There was in fact hardly a subject upon which he embarked of which he did not make himself an absolute master. During his term of office as a member of this Council he rendered most valuable public service.

By a sad coincidence we have also to deplore the loss of Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri, who died on May 23rd, at the age of 64. The connection of Sir Ashutosh Chaudhuri with the Council began in 1921, when upon his retirement from the Bench of the High Court he was elected a member and he continued to sit until the dissolution in September, 1923. My own knowledge of Sir Ashutosh extended over a period of thirty years, and it was a great pleasure as well as a privilege when he agreed upon my taking over charge of the office of President to act as one of the panel of Chairmen. I am indebted to him for much valuable assistance, which was always freely given. He too may truly be described as a great Bengali.

Sir Frederick William Duke, who died in England on the 11th of June, at the age of 64, was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council under the old constitution from 1908 to 1911 and again from 1911 to 1914. In 1908, he was appointed Chief Secretary to the Government of

Bengal and two years later, in 1910, he became a Member of the Executive Council, an office which he held until 1914, when he was transferred to London as a Member of the Council of India. In 1919, he was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India. He enjoyed the distinction of officiating as the last Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal—in 1911-12—and in that capacity acted as President of the Legislative Council. Sir William Duke was a sincere friend of Indian aspirations and the prominent part which he played in moulding the Reforms which are embodied in the Government of India Act are known to all.

Raja Ban Behari Kapur, who died on June, 4th, at the age of 70, was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council from 1885 to 1886 and again from 1905 to 1907; while only last year he rendered valuable service as President of the Committee which was appointed to consider the proposed Bengal Tenancy Bill. He was connected with the local bodies of Burdwan for many years and he was also an Honorary Magistrate of that place and in those capacities he laboured incessantly for the good of the locality in which he lived.

It will be, I am sure, the wish of the Council that an expression of deep sympathy and of appreciation of the public work of our late colleagues shall be sent in each case to their relatives.

I will ask members to signify their assent by rising in their places. All the members stood up.

Retirement of Mr. Tindall.

MR. PRESIDENT: GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,—Since we rose in April last we have lost the services of Mr. Christian Tindall, our Secretary, who has left us on long leave preparatory to retirement. Mr. Tindall had been associated with the Council in the capacity of Secretary since 1916, and it is difficult to imagine either the Council or the Legislative Department without his familiar figure. There is, I venture to say, not a single member of the Council, either past or present, who has not at some time or another profited by his intimate knowledge of procedure or who has not had occasion to appreciate the unfailing tact and good-will with which he invariably endeavoured to advise and assist. I propose, with your approval, that an expression of appreciation of the great services rendered by Mr. Tindall to the Council shall be entered upon our proceedings, and a copy sent to him. I feel that you may not think it necessary for me to put such a proposition to the vote; but I will do so formally.

The question is that an expression of the great services rendered by Mr. Christian Tindall, C.I.E., I.C.S., to the Council be entered upon the proceedings and that a copy thereof be sent to him.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Procedure regarding discussion of demands for grants.

Babu DEBI PRASAD KHAITAN: Some members on this side of the House want to know exactly the procedure you intend to follow in regard to putting the motions for grants from Nos. 2 to 24, as they involve questions of some distinct principles. Nos. 2 to 11 involve the principle of the total abolition of the Ministry; Nos. 12 to 23 involve the principle of fixing a salary on a lower level and No. 24 involves the principle that the House has no confidence in the present Ministers. What the members want to know is whether, if any of the motions from Nos. 12 to 23 be carried, No. 24 will be considered to have fallen through, or whether it will still be put to vote because it involves a different principle?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I shall follow the same procedure as I did on the last two occasions upon which demands for grants were made. One and a half hours have been allotted for this particular demand, and when the limit of time has been reached, a bell will be rung. All amendments in connection with this demand which have not been reached will then automatically lapse and the demand will be put together with any amendment which may at the moment be under discussion. With regard to the order in which the amendments will be put, I cannot depart from the order in the paper. I will first of all put amendments 2 to 7, and if amendments 2 to 7 are lost and the demand still remains before the House, I shall put to vote amendments 8, 9, 10, and so on. That is the only way, unless all the intermediate amendments before No. 24 are withdrawn.

Babu DEBI PRASAD KHAITAN: I do not want to change the order in the paper. What I want to understand is, if any of the motions, Nos. 12 to 23, be carried, will you consider No. 24 to have fallen through or will you still put it to vote if the time permits?

Mr. PRESIDENT: If amendments 2 to 7 are lost, it will be my duty to put 8 to 14, and I shall then have to put the other amendments in the order in which they stand on the paper.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): I think the member wants a ruling as to whether if the grant is reduced by any figure the other motions can be put.

Mr. PRESIDENT: My answer has been given. We shall go through the amendments as they stand on the paper.

Starred Questions.**(to which oral answers were given).****Revision of pay of services in Agriculture and Industries Department.**

***I. Babu SUDARSAN CHAKRAVORTY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in many services under Government increments of pay have been allowed on account of the high cost of living?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the services under his Ministry in the Departments of Agriculture and Industries of which the pay has not been revised?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this differential treatment?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi): (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) (i) Subordinate Agricultural service;

(ii) Subordinate Veterinary service;

(iii) Inspecting and auditing staff of the Co-operative Department;

(iv) Staff of the Sericultural Department (including Nursery establishment);

(v) Teaching staff of Government Technical and Industrial schools including Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, and connected weaving schools, and Comilla Survey school); and

(vi) Clerical establishment of Government Technical and Industrial schools (excluding the clerical staff of the Government Weaving Institute and of Comilla Survey school).

(c) For want of financial provision in some instances and because in other instances the question of making the services permanent was under consideration. The consideration of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee also caused delay. Provision has been made in the budget estimate of 1924-25 for revision of the pay of the teaching staff of Serampore and the connected weaving schools and the Comilla Survey School.

Primary schools for boys and girls.

***II. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to

state what steps were taken during the last two years and what steps are being taken during the current year for the establishment of free primary schools for boys and girls in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq): The member is referred to the reply given to the starred question No. XXXIII asked by Maulvi Abdul Quader on the 18th February, 1924. Since then, schemes for free primary education have been sanctioned for two municipalities and five unions in addition.

Colonization staff of Bakarganj Sundarbans.

***III. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether effect has been given to the increment of pay sanctioned to the staff of the Colonization department of the Bakarganj Sundarbans?

(b) If not, what steps are the Government taking in the matter?

(c) Is it not a fact that all other officers of Government have been receiving increased salaries for the last three years?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur):

(a) Yes.

(b) This question does not arise.

(c) Ministerial Officers generally have received increased salaries from the beginning of the year 1922.

Muhammadan students in colleges.

***IV. Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Muhammadan students studying—

(i) in the different colleges of Bengal including the Dacca University; and

(ii) in the Government colleges;
of Bengal, college by college?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (i) A statement showing the number of Muhammadans studying in the different classes of colleges in Bengal on 31st March, 1923, is laid on the table.

(ii) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (i) of starred question No. IV, showing the number of Muhammadans studying in different colleges in Bengal on 31st March, 1923.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|-------------------|
| (1) Arts and Science Colleges— | | | | |
| Males | .. | .. | .. | 2,849 |
| Females | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| | | | | <hr/> 2,852 |
| (2) Law | .. | .. | .. | 352 |
| (3) Medical | .. | .. | .. | 119 |
| (4) Engineering | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| (5) Education | .. | .. | .. | 35 |
| (6) Veterinary | .. | .. | .. | 31 |
| | | | | <hr/> 555 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | <hr/> 3,407 <hr/> |

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (ii) of starred question No. IV, showing the number of Muhammadans studying in Government Colleges, college by college, on 31st March, 1923.

| Colleges. | Number of Muhammadans. | | |
|---|------------------------|----|------|
| 1. Presidency College, Calcutta | .. | .. | 146 |
| 2. Dacca Intermediate College | .. | .. | 144 |
| 3. Hooghly College | .. | .. | 27 |
| 4. Sanskrit College | .. | .. | Nil. |
| 5. Krishnagar College | .. | .. | 12 |
| 6. Chittagong College | .. | .. | 136 |
| 7. Rajshahi College | .. | .. | 204 |
| 8. Calcutta Medical College | .. | .. | 114 |
| 9. Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur | .. | .. | 18 |
| 10. David Hare Training College, Calcutta | .. | .. | 12 |
| 11. Dacca Training College | .. | .. | 23 |
| 12. Bengal Veterinary College | .. | .. | 31 |
| 13. Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. | | | Nil. |
| 14. Bethune College, Calcutta | .. | .. | Nil. |
| 15. Eden High School, Dacca | .. | .. | 1 |

Muhammadan students in Medical Institutions.

*V. **Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Mussalman students studying in—

- (i) The Calcutta Medical College;
- (ii) The Carmichael Medical College;
- (iii) The Campbell Medical School;
- (iv) The Dacca Medical School;
- (v) The Burdwan Medical School; and
- (vi) The Mymensingh Medical School;

MINISTER in charge of MEDICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq): The figures are as follows:—

- (i) 128.
- (ii) 3.
- (iii) 105.
- (iv) 92.
- (v) 13.
- (vi) The Mymensingh Medical School has not yet been opened.

Muhammadan students studying in Engineering Institutions.

***VI. Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Mussalman students studying in—

(i) the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur; and

(ii) the Ahsanullah Engineering School, Dacca?

(b) Is it a fact that many Mussalman students did not get admission in the Ahsanullah Engineering School in the years 1922 and 1923?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be further pleased to state what steps he is proposing to take to admit more Mussalman students there?

(d) Is it a fact that there are very few Mussalman students in the Sibpur Engineering College?

(e) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of making provision for more scholarships for the Moslem students of that College?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes. Government are considering the question and the Director of Public Instruction has been asked to report on the desirability of reserving a suitable percentage of admissions for Mussalman students.

(c) Steps have been taken by the recent creation of scholarships reserved for Mussalman students.

(d) Yes.

(e) Owing to the lack of qualified candidates difficulty is found in awarding existing scholarships reserved for Mussalmans. Government do not therefore see the necessity of making provision for more scholarships.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. VI.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (i) Number of Mussalman students in the Bengal Engineering College on the 31st March, 1923 | ... 18 |
| (ii) Number of Mussalman students in the Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, on the 31st March, 1923 | ... 42 |

Acquisition of land for E. I. Ry. Co. in Howrah Town.

***VII. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY:** (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works aware that considerable quantities of land in the heart of the town of Howrah are being acquired for the East Indian Railway Company for the provision of quarters for their staff?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that a large number of holdings has already been acquired for the purpose?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that land is available in the less thickly populated area of the town and close to the railway line?

(d) Are the Government considering the advisability of obtaining the views of the Chairman of the Municipality before considering future proposals for the acquisition of land in the municipal town of Howrah?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:

(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Yes; but after thorough investigation the Government of India are convinced that no land further out from Howrah will serve the purpose for which the land in question is required.

(d) The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1923, empowers any person interested in the land to file written objections to the Collector within thirty days after the issue of the notification under section 4 of the Act. Under the provisions of this Act it will be open to the Chairman of the Municipality to raise an objection if he so desires.

Number of European and Anglo-Indian students in schools.

***VIII. Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of European Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of European and Anglo-Indian students studying in the different—

- (i) private schools, and
- (ii) Government schools

of Bengal?

MEMBER in charge of EUROPEAN EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. VIII, showing the number of students studying in the various European schools in Bengal.

(i) Students reading in privately-managed schools.

| No. | Name of School. | Total number of students on the rolls. | Number of European and Anglo-Indian students. |
|-----|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling | 264 | 257 |
| 2 | St. Xavier's College (School Department), Calcutta | 617 | 355 |
| 3 | St. Paul's School, Darjeeling | 192 | 177 |
| 4 | La Martiniere School (Boys), Calcutta | 295 | 240 |
| 5 | St. Joseph's High School, Calcutta | 481 | 406 |
| 6 | St. Patrick's School, Asansol | 247 | 229 |
| 7 | La. Martiniere School (Girls), Calcutta .. | 138 | 114 |
| 8 | Pratt Memorial School, Calcutta | 284 | 219 |
| 9 | Loreto House, Calcutta | 338 | 240 |
| 10 | Calcutta Girls' School | 305 | 258 |
| 11 | Diocesan Girls' School, Darjeeling | 173 | 156 |
| 12 | Loreto Convent, Darjeeling | 157 | 154 |
| 13 | Queen's Hill School, Darjeeling | 138 | 125 |
| 14 | St. Helen's Convent, Kurseong | 178 | 175 |
| 15 | Goethals Memorial Orphanage, Kurseong .. | 172 | 172 |
| 16 | Calcutta Boys' School | 159 | 134 |
| 17 | St. Teresa's School (Girls), Calcutta .. | 132 | 126 |
| 18 | Jewish Girls' School, Calcutta | 180 | .... |
| 19 | Loreto Convent (Asansol) | 175 | 174 |
| 20 | St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong, Secondary Department | 33 | 33 |
| 21 | Calcutta Free School (Boys) | 191 | 186 |
| 22 | St. Joseph's Free School, Calcutta | 332 | 216 |
| 23 | Catholic Male Orphanage, Calcutta | 247 | 241 |
| 24 | St. Gregory's School, Dacca | 54 | 42 |
| 25 | St. Aloysius' Day School and Orphanage, Howrah .. | 116 | 106 |
| 26 | Calcutta Free School (Girls) | 106 | 100 |
| 27 | Loreto Boarding School (Girls), Calcutta .. | 102 | 92 |
| 28 | Loreto Orphanage, Calcutta | 390 | 374 |
| 29 | St. Agnes' School, Howrah | 115 | 102 |
| 30 | St. Francis Xavier's School, Dacca | 111 | 96 |
| 31 | St. Scholastica's Convent, Chittagong | 125 | 125 |
| 32 | Convent of the Immaculate Conception, Chander-nagore. | 111 | 104 |
| 33 | St. Paul's Mission School, Calcutta | 183 | 163 |
| 34 | Loreto Day School, (Dharamtola), Calcutta .. | 318 | 247 |
| 35 | Loreto Day School (Bowbazar Street), Calcutta .. | 162 | 139 |
| 36 | Loreto Day School Sealdah, Calcutta | 198 | 188 |
| 37 | B. N. Railway, European School, Kharagpur .. | 189 | 189 |
| 38 | St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong | 522 | 522 |
| 39 | Loreto Free School (Dharamtola), Calcutta .. | 175 | 175 |
| 40 | Loreto Free School (Bowbazar), Calcutta | 119 | 119 |
| 41 | Loreto Free School (Sealdah), Calcutta .. | 72 | 72 |
| 42 | Gouldsmith Free School, Calcutta | 81 | 71 |
| 43 | St. Thomas' School, Howrah | 104 | 92 |
| 44 | St. Paul's Boarding and Day School, Calcutta .. | 159 | 159 |
| 45 | St. Elizabeth's Free Day School, Howrah .. | 30 | 30 |
| 46 | Weesleyan Preparatory School, Calcutta | 88 | 49 |
| 47 | St. James' Parochial School, Calcutta | 161 | 135 |

| No. | Name of School. | Total number of students on the rolls. | Number of European and Anglo-Indian students. |
|----------|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 48 | St. John's Diocesan Day School, Calcutta .. | 63 | 50 |
| 49 | Kidderpore House, Calcutta .. | 162 | 162 |
| 50 | East Indian Railway School, Lilooah .. | 23 | 23 |
| 51 | East Indian Railway School, Bandel .. | 15 | 15 |
| 52 | East Indian Railway School, Ondal .. | 27 | 27 |
| 53 | East Indian Railway School, Asansol .. | 60 | 60 |
| 54 | East Indian Railway School, Rampurhat .. | 11 | 11 |
| 55 | Eastern Bengal Railway School (Chitpur Dakhin-dari). | 22 | 22 |
| 56 | Eastern Bengal Railway School, Kanchrapara .. | 25 | 25 |
| 57 | Eastern Bengal Railway School, Saidpur .. | 162 | 162 |
| 58 | Armenian College, Calcutta .. | 122 | .... |
| 59 | St. Placid's School, Chittagong .. | 92 | 74 |
| 60 | The Children's House (Kursong) .. | 11 | 11 |
| Total .. | | 10,028 | 8,520 |

(ii) Students reading in sohools managed by Government.

| No. | Name of School. | Total number of students on the rolls. | Number of European and Anglo-Indian students. |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | Victoria School (Boys), Kurseong .. | 185 | 185 |
| 2 | Dow Hill School (Girls), Kurseong .. | 115 | 115 |
| 3 | Dow Hill Training Class, Kurseong .. | 18 | 18 |
| Total .. | | 318 | 318 |

Conciliation Panel and its duties.

*IX. **Mr. S. N. HALDAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

(i) the number of strikes and of disputes between employees and employers of labour that took place during the year from September, 1922, to August, 1923;

(ii) the number of those strikes and disputes in which the Conciliation Panel formed by Government helped to settle such strikes and disputes; and

(iii) whether the Conciliation Panel interfered of its own motion in any such strikes and disputes?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the functions and duties of the Conciliation Panel?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson): (a) (i) Seventy-seven.

(ii) None.

(iii) *Vide* (ii) above.

(b) For the functions and duties of the Conciliation Panel, the member is referred to the reply to question 53 (a) (i) asked by Mr. Md. Daud on the 18th February, 1924.

Settlement of disputes by Conciliation Board.

***X. Mr. S. N. HALDAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

(i) how many labour disputes have been decided and settled by the Conciliation Board or Panel formed by the Government Resolution No. 4681 Com., dated the 11th September, 1922, until the new panel had been formed by Resolution No. 2178 Com.;

(ii) how many employees of the different industrial concerns have taken advantage of such a panel; and

(iii) how many employers of Labour have taken advantage of the existence of such a panel?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of such persons as have taken advantage of such a Conciliation Panel?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: (a) (i) The member is referred to the reply to question 53 (a) (i) asked by Mr. Md. Daud on the 18th February, 1924.

No dispute has occurred since in which the Conciliation Panel has been utilised.

(a) (ii), (iii) and (b) The questions are not understood. *Vide* reply to (a) (i) above. From time to time applications have been received from persons acting on behalf of employees to have Conciliation Boards appointed, but it is impossible to give the names of such persons or the number of employees affected. No applications have been received from employers.

Constitution of Conciliation Board.

***XI. Mr. S. N. HALDAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether the different existing labour unions were consulted and asked to suggest names of persons for nomination on the Conciliation Board?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons why their opinions were not obtained before forming such a panel?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state—

- (i) whether the names of persons chosen by Government were circulated to the labour unions and associations; and
- (ii) whether their opinions were invited before the constitution of the board and publication of the names?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: (a) No.

(b) As the number on the panel is limited, Government deemed it necessary to nominate members to represent Labour.

- (i) No.
- (ii) No.

Financial help to old scheme Madrassahs.

***XII. Maulvi SAYEDAL HOQUE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

- (i) whether there is any departmental bar to granting aids, lump-sum and recurring, to the old scheme Madrassahs;
- (ii) if so, what is the bar; and
- (iii) what are the causes for the bar?

(b) If there is no departmental bar, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what is the amount annually allotted for those Madrassahs?

(c) Is it a fact that out of the total strength of Muhammadan students in Bengal nearly 60 per cent. read in these old scheme Madrassahs?

(d) If not, what is the correct percentage of students reading in the old scheme Madrassahs?

(e) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps for the regular teaching of Muhammadan students if they prefer to remain in those Madrassahs?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) (i) to (iii) No. In their Resolution No. 450 T.G., dated the 31st July, 1914, Government stated that while not debarring absolutely from Government aid Madrassahs which followed the old course of studies, they would give preference to those adopting the reformed scheme. In practice it has been found that help given to an old scheme Madrassah correspondingly injures a new scheme Madrassah, and it is the policy of Government to restrict financial help to the latter variety.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) 13·81 per cent.

(e) Government have no intention of modifying the practice hitherto followed.

**Dacca University Court and question of representation of
depressed classes.**

***XIII. Babu MOHINI MOHON DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether there are any representatives of the depressed classes in the Court of the Dacca University?

(b) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) and (b) The answer is in the negative as no provision is made in the Act or Statutes of the University of Dacca for any special representation of the depressed classes on the Court of the University.

Clinical training of students of the National Medical Institute.

***XIV. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether permission was given to students of a certain medical school in Calcutta not affiliated to the State Medical Faculty or the Council of Medical Registration in Bengal to attend the Howrah General Hospital for clinical training;
- (ii) if so, what is the name of the institution;
- (iii) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble the Minister was the Chairman of the Governing Body of the said school;
- (iv) whether it is a fact that similar permission was refused to another institution, viz., the National Medical Institute;
- (v) whether it is a fact that the Government refused the National Medical Institute the permission of dissection of surplus dead bodies from the different hospitals; and
- (vi) whether it is also a fact that permission was given to the National Medical Institute subsequently?

(b) Are the Government intending to reconsider their decisions about permission to students of the National Medical Institute to attend the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital and other hospitals in Calcutta?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

- (i) whether the honorary Physicians and Surgeons in the different Calcutta Hospitals are willing to give the necessary training to the students; and
- (ii) whether it is a fact that there are female nurses in many hospitals where medical students are also trained?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) (i) No.

(ii) and (iii) The questions do not arise.

(iv) The National Medical Institute never applied for permission to utilise the Howrah General Hospital for clinical training.

(v) Yes.

(vi) Yes. Permission has been allowed provisionally for a period of three years on the expiry of which Government have reserved the right to cancel the permission if the Government Body fail, in the meantime, to obtain recognition by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration.

(b) The Secretary of the National Medical Institute recently submitted an application for permission to utilise the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital and certain other hospitals in Calcutta for purposes of clinical training but has been informed that Government cannot consider the question until the Institute is recognised by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration.

(c) (i) Government have no information.

(ii) The answer is in the affirmative.

Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain medical schools which were not recognised at the time were allowed to send students to Howrah General Hospitals for the purpose of clinical training on payment of Rs. 2 from students.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I should like to have notice of the question.

Advertising vacancies for stenographers and typists.

***XV. Dr. H. W. B. MORENO:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of advertising in newspapers the occurrence of future vacancies, temporary or otherwise, among shorthand writers and typists in the Bengal Secretariat, in order to enlist the services, among others, of qualified Anglo-Indian ladies?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson): All vacancies for typists are duly advertised. Vacancies for stenographers are advertised if they cannot be filled from the ranks of typists and others already in the service of Government who have, by attending evening classes or otherwise, fitted themselves for such posts.

Dr. H. W. B. MORENO: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether in such advertisements for stenographers and typists latitude is given to lady stenographers and typists to apply.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: There is no objection to ladies applying for these posts.

Appointment of Anglo-Indians to Government Services.

***XVI. Dr. H. W. B. MORENO:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state, whether there have been at any time any orders in existence requiring a certain percentage of appointments under the Government of Bengal to be given to Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans in certain offices and departments?

(b) If so, have these orders been rescinded or modified?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state in what way the rules have been modified?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the grounds for the rescission or modification?

(e) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether these orders are being duly observed by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: (a) There have never been any such orders.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill.

***XVII. Dr. H. W. B. MORENO:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state when it is in the contemplation of the Government to introduce the Bengal Tenancy Act (Amendment) Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: It has not yet been decided when the Bill will be introduced.

Increase of malaria due to silting up of rivers and khals.

***XVIII. Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether it has been established that the silting up of rivers and *khals* in this Presidency has resulted in an increase of malaria; and

(ii) whether the Government are considering the desirability of making allotments in the next Budget for the purpose of clearing the rivers and *khals*?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT and PUBLIC HEALTH (the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Chuznavi): (i) The Director of Public Health is of opinion that in the deltaic portion of Bengal malaria tends to increase concurrently with the silting up of the local rivers and water courses.

(ii) Yes; the following provisions were made by the Irrigation Department in the Budget for 1924-25 :—

Completion of the Amirabad Drainage project in the Midnapore District—Rs. 25,000; Excavation of the Hoorhoora Khal in the Howrah District—Rs. 3,50,000; Completion of the Arapanch anti-malarial project in the 24-Parganas District—Rs. 41,000; Silt clearance of the Gangakhali Soadighi Khal in the Midnapore District—Rs. 1,50,000; Silt clearance of Joygopal Khal in the Midnapore District—Rs. 49,000; Silt clearance of Khas Tehsil Khals in the Midnapore District—Rs. 20,000; and all these items were rejected by the Legislative Council. The member himself who asks this question voted against them.

“ Dhai ” training.

***XIX. Babu JOGENDRA NATH MITRA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that the class of hereditary *dhais* (midwives) in Bengal is gradually dying out; and

(ii) whether it is a fact that the women living in villages are put to great difficulties at the time of delivery?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to train any section of women to act as *dhais*?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZNAVI:

(a) (i) Government have no definite information.

(ii) Government have no definite information, but it is understood that there is a lack of trained *dhais* in the villages.

(b) For the purpose of training of indigenous *dhais*, Government sanctioned the sum of Rs. 250 to each of the district boards of Howrah, Birbhum, Dacca, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Nadia and Tippera during the year 1923. A curriculum for the training of such *dhais* was prepared and circulated to these district boards. A copy of the *Saral Dhattrishikhya-o-Kumar Tantra* was also supplied to these district boards.

A provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made in the current year's budget for the training of *dhais* in towns and in rural areas in fifteen districts, for which a detailed scheme is under preparation by the Director of Public Health.

Unstarred Questions.**(answers to which were laid on the table).****Posts of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in Dacca Medical School.**

1. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state whether the posts of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons attached to the Mitford Hospital and Medical School, Dacca, are tenure appointments?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for allowing some of the officers extensions in their respective posts?

(c) Is it a fact that some of these officers have been given long extensions in those posts?

(d) Is it a fact that these posts are considered by the officers of the Medical Department as prize appointments?

(e) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is great discontent amongst the officers of the Medical Department?

(f) Is it a fact that some of these officers are continuing in the Mitford Hospital and Medical School, Dacca, by constant inter-changes of duties on the expiry of their respective terms and thereby monopolising the posts?

(g) If the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, are the Government proposing to take necessary steps to remove the discontent?

(h) If the answer to (f) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry and of ascertaining the facts?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) Yes.

(b) In the interests of public service.

(c) Yes, in a few cases only.

(d) Some are considered to be good appointments but not all.

(e) No.

(f) Inter-changes have been allowed in four cases in view of the special merits of the officers and in the interests of the school.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Does not arise.

Posts of two Deputy Superintendents in the Dacca Medical School.

2. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are two Deputy Superintendents attached to the Medical School and Mitford Hospital, Dacca, respectively?

(b) Is it a fact that there is only one such officer in the Medical College and Medical College Hospital and in the Campbell Medical School and Campbell Medical Hospital doing the combined duties of both?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this differentiation between the Dacca and Calcutta Medical institutions and hospitals?

(d) Are the Government contemplating the amalgamation of these two posts at Dacca into one, as in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) Yes.

(b) There is no Deputy Superintendent at the Medical College; while there is one Assistant to the Superintendent at the Medical College Hospital. The answer to the latter part of this question is in the affirmative.

(c) Two officers are necessary at Dacca as the conditions there differ from those obtaining in the case of the Campbell Medical School and Hospital where there is a whole time Superintendent; whereas at Dacca the Civil Surgeon holds the collateral charge of the Medical School, the Mitford Hospital, and the Mental Hospital.

(d) For the reasons stated in answer to (c) above, the question does not arise.

Teaching staff of Dacca Medical School.

3. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state why the working hours of the teachers of the Dacca Medical School and Mitford Hospital are only two from 8-30 A.M. to 10-30 A.M.?

(b) Is any attendance register kept?

(c) If so, who supervises the register?

(d) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the teachers go out on private calls during the working hours both in the hospital and in the school?

(e) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the teachers attached to the school teach in one subject only?

(f) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that each teacher teaches only for 40 hours in the year?

(g) Are the Government considering the desirability of amalgamating some of the posts for retrenchment as was done previously, such as Surgery and Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, Medicine and Materia Medica, Jurisprudence and Midwifery?

(h) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the standard of qualifications for selection of teachers of the Dacca Medical School?

(i) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the qualifications of each teacher of the said school at the present time?

(j) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a list of medical officers in the Dacca Medical School and Mitford Hospital with the dates as to when they were stationed there?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) The hours of attendance of teachers at the Mitford Hospital were fixed some years ago from 8-30 A.M. to 10-30 A.M. to suit all concerned. These are clinical instruction hours and students have to attend lectures at 11 A.M. Teachers also attend the hospital when called for emergent cases.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Superintendent.

(d) They are allowed to do so on rare occasions in case of urgency.

(e) Yes—except in the case of Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene.

(f) This is not so, the hours are nearer 60 and in addition there is clinical instruction daily.

(g) No. The teacherships were split up after mature consideration. Their re-amalgamation would constitute a retrograde step and would be detrimental to efficient teaching.

(h) Assistant Surgeons with special knowledge of the various subjects.

(i) Qualifications of each Teacher.—

1. Captain P. Ganguli, B.A., D.T.M. &c., Teacher of Medicine.

College qualifications.—Holder of three gold medals, one certificate of Honours, General Scholar from 1902-1907.

University awards.—Dr. R. Ghosh's Prize; Durgacharan Laha Scholarship.

Post Graduate qualifications.—Diploma of the Tropical Medicine—Special qualification for the appointment; stood first in Tropical Medicine in D.T.M. Held the appointment of clinical tutor in Medicine, Medical College.

General work.—Contributed about forty articles in the Medical Journals, Editor of the *Indian Medical Record*, Associate Editor of the *Indian Journal of Medicine*.

Special Research work:—(1) Flavine in Ophthalmic practice; (2) Fatty acids in the treatment of tuberculosis and various other works in association with Major Acton, Major Knowles, Dr. Muir and others of the Tropical School of Medicine.

2. Assistant Surgeon Satish Chandra Ghosh, L.M.S., Teacher of Surgery.

Qualifications.—(1) Passed the X-Rays with credit; (2) Was senior House Surgeon of the Medical College; (3) Specially trained as an Ophthalmic Surgeon.

3. Guru Prasad Mitra, M.B., 1901, Teacher of Midwifery.

College qualifications.—(1) Goodeve Medal in Medicine for 1st place in M.B. Examination of Calcutta University (1901); (2) Gold medalist in Midwifery, Medical College of Bengal; (3) Gold medal in Hygiene.

4. Charu Chandra Sinha, L.M.S., Teacher of Pathology.

He was Honours student in Physiology in the Medical College. He had a training in Pathological Department for practical Pathology and Bacteriology to enable him to take charge of the laboratory in the Prince of Wales Hospital as Registrar, Medical College, Calcutta. He has specialised in Pathology. X-Ray specialist.

5. Akhoy Kumar Sarkar, L.M.S., Teacher of Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene.

Special qualification in Medical Jurisprudence.

6. Pashupati Mitra, M.B., Teacher of Anatomy.

Was senior Prosecutor of Anatomy, was senior Demonstrator of Anatomy in Medical College, Bengal, for over 10 years. Gold medalist in Surgery. Specialised in Anatomy.

7. Jogendra Nath Basu, Captain, L.M.S., Teacher of Physiology. Special training in Physiology.

8. Rai Sahib, Tarak Chandra Datta, Teacher of Materia Medica. Deputy Superintendent of the School and specially selected for the post.

Passed Double Final Licentiate Examination. One medal for General Proficiency after his passing Final Licentiate Examination at the end of the 3rd year course. Passed First at the Final Licentiate Examination at the end of the 4th year course. Specially trained in the Medical College.

He was awarded with title of Rai Sahib for his work as Deputy Superintendent of the School.

(j) A list is laid on the table.

List of Medical Officers attached to the Medical School, Dacca, referred to in the reply to clause (i) of unstarred question No. 3.

| Name. | Date of present appointment. | Stationed at Medical School and Mitford Hospital. |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Guru Prasad Mitra, Assistant Surgeon. Teacher of Midwifery. | 7th December, 1917 | .. He was appointed on 10th April, 1913 as a teacher of Anatomy. |
| 2. Pashupati Mitra, Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of Anatomy. | 20th June, 1920 | .. 20th June, 1920. |
| 3. Satish Chandra Ghosh, Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of Surgery. | 20th April, 1923 | .. 20th April, 1923. |
| 4. Charu Chandra Sinha, Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of Pathology. | 28th June, 1917 | .. 28th June, 1917. |

| Name. | Date of present appointment. | Stationed at Medical School and Mitford Hospital. |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 5. Akhoy Kumar Sarkar, Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of of Jurisprudence and Hygiene. | 6th August, 1920 | 6th August, 1920. |
| 6. Pratulpati Ganguli, Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of Medicine. | 30th July, 1923 | 30th July, 1923. |
| 7. Jogendra Nath Basu, Assistant Surgeon Teacher of Physiology. | 5th July, 1921 | 5th July, 1921. |
| 8. Rai Shahob Tarak Chandra Datta, Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of Materia Medica and Deputy Superintendent. | 18th March, 1918 | He was Anatomical Assistant from 20th August, 1901, to 19th March, 1911, 1st Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Out-patient Department, Mitford Hospital, Dacca, from 20th March, 1911, to 17th March, 1918. Special promotion to the rank of Assistant Surgeon from 18th March, 1918. |
| 9. Moulvi Shamsluddin Ahmed Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Teacher of Compounder, Class. | 9th October, 1922 | 9th October, 1922. |
| 10. Priya Nath Mahalanabish, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Demonstrator of Physiology. | 1st August, 1921 | 1st August, 1922. |
| 11. Dharani Mohan Chanda Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Demonstrator of Anatomy. | 12th February, 1918 | 12th February, 1918. |
| 12. Moulvi Muizuddin Khan, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Demonstrator of Pathology. | 1st December, 1921 | He was appointed on 16th May, 1913, as a Demonstrator in the Dacca Medical School. |
| 13. Jogendra Kr. Chakraverty, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, 1st Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy. | 12th August, 1919 | 12th August, 1919. |
| 14. Byomkesh Das Gupta, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Assistant Demonstrator of Physiology. | 20th July, 1920 | He was a R. M. O. from 15th July, 1919, to 20th July, 1920 in the Mitford Hospital, Dacca. |
| 15. Nepal Chandra Bhattacharji, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Demonstrator of Materia Medica. | 8th January, 1922 | 8th January, 1922. |
| 16. Harsha Nath Sen Gupta, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, 2nd Demonstrator of Anatomy. | 6th July, 1921 | 6th July, 1921. ** |
| 17. Brojendra Nath Ghosh, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Assistant Demonstrator of Pathology. | 1st July, 1921 | 1st July, 1921. |
| 18. Upendra Nath Bose, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, 3rd Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy. | 1st September, 1921 | He was a Demonstrator of Anatomy, Dacca Medical School, from 9th July, 1920, to 20th July, 1920 and was a R. M. O. in the Mitford Hospital from 20th July, 1920, to 31st August, 1921. |

List of Medical Officers attached to the Mitford Hospital, Dacca, referred to in the reply to clause (i) of unstarred question No. 3.

| Name. | Date of joining. |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Military Assistant Surgeon Major W. J. Gillson, I. M. D. | 28th April, 1923. |
| 2. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Kali Prosonna Chakraverty. | 11th September, 1919. |
| 3. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Jatindra Mohan Sen Gupta. | 19th January, 1922. |
| 4. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Nalini Kumar Sen . | 31st March, 1923. |
| 5. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Atindra Mohan Das .. | 12th December, 1923. |
| 6. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Moti Lall Talukdar .. | 28th October, 1923. |
| 7. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Basanta Kumar Balo . | 15th January, 1924. |
| 8. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Ananta Kumar Das Gupta. | 21st March, 1924. |
| 9. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Indu Bhusan Chakraverty. | 16th March, 1922. |
| 10. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Zeauddin Ahmed .. | 17th July, 1922. |
| 11. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Suresh Chandra Ghosh, II | 8th December, 1923. |
| 12. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Barada Kanta De, II . | 31st January 1924. |
| 13. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Rama Prasanna Ray .. | 1st February 1924. |
| 14. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Brojo Gopal Nandy | 23rd February, 1924. |
| 15. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Suresh Chandra Choudhury. | 6th February, 1924. |
| 16. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Gagan Chandra Hazra | 15th March, 1924. |
| 17. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Mohamed Nawsherwan | 10th April, 1924. |
| 18. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Revati Mohan Sen .. | 11th April, 1924. |

Assistant Surgeon Rai Sahib Tarak Chandra Datta of Dacca Medical School.

4. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BACCHI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state whether he is aware that Rai Sahib Dr. Tarak Chandra Datta, promoted Assistant Surgeon, has been stationed at Dacca for about a quarter of a century?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for keeping the officer at one station for such a length of time? Is it for any special aptitude or merely an accident? Is there no other post in the province to which the services of this officer can be placed or any other officer to replace him in his present duties?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) Rai Sahib Tarak Chandra Datta has been stationed at Dacca since 1900 and has been on the staff of the Dacca Medical School since 1901.

(b) The Minister in charge of the Medical Department is advised that Rai Shib Tarak Chandra Datta has shown special aptitude for teaching work and that he is the most suitable officer available for his present appointment.

Scarcity of drinking water in Malda.

5. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that there is an acute scarcity of pure drinking water in almost all the villages of the Malda district?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the people of Malda have made repeated requests and representations to the District Board but that practically no steps have been taken by the Board to remove this want?

(c) Has the District Board brought the matter to the notice of the Government?

(d) Has the Board approached the Government for any grant or loan for the purpose?

(e) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (a) It is understood that owing to the prolonged drought scarcity of drinking water prevails in many districts of the province including Malda.

(b) The District Board of Malda is reported to have spent the following amounts during the last 5 years on the provision of new wells:—

1919-20—Rs. 8,863; 1920-21—Rs. 7,846; 1921-22—Rs. 9,617; 1922-23—Rs. 22,755; and 1923-24—Rs. 22,056.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) It is understood that the District Board is considering the question of asking for a loan from Government.

Ministers' salary.

6. Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state

whether the two Hon'ble Ministers or either of them presented their salary bills or his salary bill for the month of March, 1924, to the Accountant-General?

(b) If so, what has been the result?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state from what funds are they to be paid?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: (a) No.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Mr. S. N. Roy acting as Government whip in Council.

7. Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department been drawn to the two letters, one dated the 8th March, 1924, and the other, dated the 31st March, 1924, purporting to have been written by Mr. S. N. Roy, I.C.S., Officer on Special Duty, to some of the non-official members of Council?

(b) Were the letters written with the knowledge and sanction of Government?

(c) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any action?

(d) Is it a fact that the said Mr. S. N. Roy has been acting as Government whip in the Council?

(e) If so, was he acting as such with the knowledge and sanction of Government?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

Kala-azar in Mehendiganj in Bakarganj.

8. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(i) whether there has been any epidemic of kala-azar in the Mehendiganj thana of Bakarganj district during the last six months;

(ii) if so, how often did the Health Officer of Bakarganj visit the affected areas;

(iii) how many cases have been personally examined by the Health Officer; and

(iv) what steps, if any, have been taken by the District Board to combat the disease?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of opening centres for free treatment?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZHNAVI:

(a) (i) In the opinion of the District Health Officer, kala-azar is endemically present in the Mehendiganj thana of the Bakarganj district.

(ii) The District Health Officer visited the affected areas three times, viz., in August and December, 1923, and again in January, 1924.

(iii) The District Health Officer examined 263 cases of which 227 were found to be kala-azar cases.

(iv) The Sanitary Medical Officer under the Health Officer has been deputed to, and is working in, two centres in the most badly affected areas of the Mehendiganj thana, viz., at Kauria and Mamania. Besides, there are three more centres at the Board's dispensaries at Patarhat, Lata and Badurtuni within the said revenue thana.

In addition to the five centres in the Mehendiganj thana, centres for treatment of kala-azar cases have been opened at each of the Board's remaining 25 dispensaries in other thanas of the district, the doctor attached to each dispensary having been trained by the Health Officer and complete printed instructions with necessary medicines and apparatus having also been supplied to each dispensary. The Board's Sanitation Committee will shortly consider the notes recently submitted by the Health Officer and the Civil Surgeon for taking a complete survey and for making adequate arrangements for treatment of kala-azar in other parts of the district.

(b) In view of what has been done by the District Board, Government do not consider it necessary to take any further steps.

Presidents of Bengal Legislative Council.

9. Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state when the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda was appointed as President of the Bengal Legislative Council?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state when the present President of the Bengal Legislative Council vacates his office?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) From the 3rd January, 1921.

(b) The member is referred to section 72C (1) and (3) of the Government of India Act.

Syedpur Trust Estate.

10. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the manager of the Syedpur Trust Estate keeps some chairs in his office for Hindus only to sit on?

(b) Is it a fact that one Muhammadan Talukdar of the Estate came to see the manager and sat on a chair?

(c) Is it a fact that the manager asked the Talukdar to wash the chair with his own hand?

(d) Is it a fact that in every Tahsil cutcherry the manager has reserved some chairs for Hindus and Hindu Tahsildars?

(e) Is it a fact that Muhammadan Tahsildars are made to sit on round stools?

(f) Is it a fact that the manager calls the Muhammadan tenants "Jaban" and "Naria"?

(g) Is it also a fact that the same manager calls the Hindu tenants "Bhadralog"?

(h) Are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into the alleged conduct of the manager?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:
(a) No.

(b) It may be a fact, but as no details are given it has not been possible to make an inquiry.

(c) No such request was made by the manager to anybody.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) The manager applies the term to all tenants of respectable status. He does not confine it to Hindu tenants only.

(h) The answer is in the negative.

Syedpur Trust Estate.

11. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether any inquiry was ever made into the management of the Syedpur Trust Estate?

(b) If so, who made the inquiry and with what result?

(c) Is it a fact that the manager of the Trust Estate has given directions to all doctors of the charitable dispensaries aided by the Estate that no good medicine should be given to the Muhammadan patients?

(d) Is it a fact that since then those doctors are directing the Muhammadan patients to go to Maulvi Rafiuddin Ahmed, Pleader, Jessore, for free medicine?

(e) Is it a fact that the manager has prohibited the Muhammadan tenants from using the water of the tanks of the Trust Estate on the ground that, if touched by them, the water will be polluted?

(f) Is it a fact that some Muhammadan tenants approached the manager praying for the withdrawal of the order referred to in (e) above?

(g) Is it a fact that the manager rejected the prayer and asked those Muhammadan tenants to go to Maulvi Rafiuddin Ahmed for water?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

(a) and (b) No inquiry of a general nature has been made about the management of the Syedpur Trust Estate. In 1912-13 an inquiry was made by a Deputy Collector about certain charges brought against its manager, as a result of which he was transferred.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Books not allowed to political prisoners.

12. Dr. MOHINI MOHON DAS: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state what books are not allowed to political prisoners in Jail?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (JAILS)
(the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): Only two books have so far been disallowed but each case is dealt with on its merits, e.g., books inculcating revolutionary doctrines would not be allowed.

Proscribed publications.

13. Dr. MOHINI MOHON DAS: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a list of the books, periodicals and pamphlets with the names of their authors proscribed in Bengal—

(i) after the passing of the Press Act; and

(ii) after the amendment of the Press Act?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for their proscription in each case?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) and (b) The member is referred to the answer given to question No. 171 put by Babu Brojendra Kishore Roy Chaudhuri on the 26th January, 1923, in this Council. Lists showing the publications subsequently proscribed in the calendar years 1922 and 1923 with a summary of the reasons in each case are placed on the table. The names of the authors are not in most cases available.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 13, showing additional publications proscribed under section 12 of the Indian Press Act, 1922, with the title of the publication and reasons for proscription.

1. Karachi Ke Kaidi (Prisoners of Karachi).—A pamphlet in Urdu, containing matter which is likely or may have a tendency to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.
2. Birth of Asahyoga Krishna.—A pamphlet in Urdu, containing matter which is likely or may have a tendency to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

Statement of publications proscribed under section 99A of the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by the Third Schedule of the Press Law Repeal and Amendment Act, 1922 (Act XIV of 1922), with title of publication and reasons for proscription.

1. Paigam-i-Haque.—A leaflet in Urdu, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.
2. Karachi Ka Shadjantra.—A pamphlet in Hindi, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.
3. Vanguard of Indian Independence, No. 1.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.
4. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 2.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.
5. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 3.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

6. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 4.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

7. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 5.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

8. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 6.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

9. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 7.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

10. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 8.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

11. Vanguard of Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 9.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

12. Angrezon-Ki-Kukru Kun.—A booklet in Hindi, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

13. Indian People.—A leaflet in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

14. Teeg-e-Khilafat.—A leaflet in Urdu, containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

15. What Do We Want.—A booklet in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

16. Jubbani.—A booklet in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

17. Letter in English addressed to the Indian People.—A printed letter in English, containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

18. Manifesto to the All-India Congress Committee.—A leaflet in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

19. Advance Guard, Volume I, No. 1.—A leaflet in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

20. Advance Guard, Volume I, No. 2.—A leaflet in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

21. Advance Guard, Volume I, No. 3.—A leaflet in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

22. Advance Guard, Volume I, No. 5.—A leaflet in English, containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

23. A Programme for the Indian National Congress.—A leaflet in English containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

24. Qual-i-Faisal.—A book in Urdu, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

25. India's Problem and its Solution.—A book in Urdu, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 13, showing publications proscribed by the Government of Bengal during the year 1923 under section 99A of the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by the Third Schedule of the Press Law Repeal and Amendment Act, 1922 (Act XIV of 1922), with title of publication and reasons for proscription.

1. Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 1.—A newspaper in English containing words likely to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

2. Advance Guard, Volume I, No. 7.—A newspaper in English, containing words likely to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

3. Advance Guard, Volume I, No. 8.—A newspaper in English, containing words likely to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

4. Proclamation issued by the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind.—An Urdu proclamation containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

5. Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 2.—An English newspaper containing words likely to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

6. Open letter to Mr. C. R. Das and his followers.—A leaflet in English, containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

7. Vanguard, Volume II, No. 1.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

8. An appeal to the Labour Unions of India.—A leaflet in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

9. Leaflet issued by the Executive Committee of the Communist International and Executive Committee of the Red International of Labour Unions addressed to the workers of all countries on the subject of the Chauri Chaura judgment.—A leaflet in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

10. Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 3.—A newspaper in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

11. Vanguard, Volume II, No. 5.—A newspaper in English, containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

12. Vanguard, Volume II, No. 10.—A newspaper in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

13. Vanguard, Volume II, No. 11.—A newspaper in English, containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

14. Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 4.—A newspaper in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

15. Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 5.—A newspaper in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred and contempt the Government established by law in British India.

16. Indian Independence, Volume I, No. 6.—A newspaper in English containing words which excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India.

17. Vanguard, Volume III, No. 3.—A leaflet in English containing words which bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt the Government established by law in British India.

Commercial Education.

14. Babu BADRIDAS GOENKA: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount spent by the Government during the last three years on—

- (i) General Education (both secondary and higher);
- (ii) Medical Education;
- (iii) Engineering and Technical Education; and
- (iv) Commercial Education?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to give early effect to the two resolutions on the Commercial Education of the province (one by Babu Amulya Dhone Addy on the 5th July, 1921, and the other by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri on the 23rd February, 1922), and passed by the last Legislative Council?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) A statement is laid on the table giving the information.

(b) Schemes were prepared for the establishment of two Commercial Schools, one at Chittagong and another at Chinsurah, but they have been held up for financial reasons. These schemes will receive the attention of Government as soon as the financial position improves.

As regards the resolution moved by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, the future of the Commercial Institute has been the subject of careful consideration. During the past year Government have had before them the recommendations of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee for the deprovincialisation of the institute with a grant of Rs. 15,000 a year. This recommendation as well as the financial stress has held up a policy of advance with regard to the institute. A committee has recently been appointed by Government to consider the proposals put forward by the Commercial Institute Board for holding a course in accountancy in connection with the institute and for the award of a diploma in accountancy.

Statement referred in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 14, showing the amounts spent by Government during the three years, 1922-23, 1921-22 and 1920-21.

(i) General Education (both Secondary and Higher—

| | Rs. |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1922-23—Reserved | ... 8,00,701 |
| 1922-23—Transferred | ... 54,53,366 |
| 1921-22—Reserved | ... 9,38,216 |
| 1921-22—Transferred | ... 50,81,904 |
| 1920-21—Reserved | ... 5,69,708 |
| 1920-21—Transferred | ... 43,58,964 |

(ii) Medical Education—

| | | |
|---------|-----|-----------|
| 1922-23 | ... | 10,07,002 |
| 1921-22 | ... | 9,81,323 |
| 1920-21 | ... | 6,43,400 |

(iii) Engineering and Technical Education—

| | | |
|---------|-----|----------|
| 1922-23 | ... | 7,14,908 |
| 1921-22 | ... | 6,73,976 |
| 1920-21 | ... | 6,43,794 |

(iv) Commercial Education—

| | | |
|---------|-----|----------|
| 1922-23 | ... | 1,33,008 |
| 1921-22 | ... | 1,15,483 |
| 1920-21 | ... | 91,426 |

Model Maktab.

15. Maulvi WAHED HOSSAIN: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether Government contemplate maintaining any model maktab in the Presidency?

(b) If so, how many model maktab are to be maintained?

(c) What provision has been made in the Budget Estimate for 1924-25 for model maktab in the Presidency?

(d) If no provision has been made in the Budget of 1924-25. will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not doing so?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) and (b) It has been decided to maintain one model maktab in Calcutta as a Government institution.

(c) No provision has been made.

(d) It was under contemplation to deprovincialize all the model maktab at the time when the budget estimate for 1924-25 was prepared.

Grant in aid to the Commerce Department, Krishnath College.

16. Maulvi WAHED HOSSAIN: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to grant any aid to the Commerce Department (Commercial Institute) attached to the Krishnath College at Berhampore?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the amount per year or per month of the contemplated grants?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) and (b) An application for an increased grant in aid to the Commerce Department of the Krishnath College is at present under the consideration of Government but no decision has been arrived at.

Number of Muhammadan students and teachers in schools.

17. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (i) the total number of Government and aided schools in the Presidency of Bengal;
- (ii) the number of students on the rolls;
- (iii) the respective ratio of Muhammadan to non-Muhammadan students;
- (iv) the total number of teaching hands; and
- (v) the respective ratio of Muhammadan to non-Muhammadan teachers?

(b) If the number of Muhammadan teachers is not proportionate to the number of Muhammadan boys on the roll, what steps are the Government taking to make up the proportion?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) In view of the figures, the question does not appear to arise in respect of Government schools. In respect of aided schools, Government will, where possible, endeavour to ensure that aided schools employ a suitable proportion of Muhammadans upon their staff.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 17.

(a) (i) Number of Schools—

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------|
| Government Schools | ... | 283 |
| Government aided schools | ... | 2,496 |

(ii) Total number of students—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|
| In Government schools | ... | 21,997 |
| In Government aided schools | ... | 168,042 |

(iii) Ratio of Muhammadan to non-Muhammadan students—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
| In Government schools | ... | 1·2;4 |
| In Government aided schools | ... | 1·2;5 |

(iv) Total number of teachers—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
| In Government schools | ... | 1,175 |
| In Government aided schools | ... | 8,414 |

(v) Ratio of Muhammadan to non-Muhammadan teachers—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
| In Government schools | ... | 1:2;2 |
| In Government aided schools | ... | 1:2;9 |

Suicide of Baksh Mondal, a tenant of Midnapore Zamindari Company.

18. Maulvi AFTAB HOSSAIN JOARDAR: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue aware of the case of suicide of Baksh Mondal, a tenant of the Midnapore Zamindari Company Limited, at Bairagichar, in the district of Rajshahi?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the medical officer's report of the *post-mortem* examination?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of instructing the District Magistrate to make immediately a sifting inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

(a) Yes.

(b) There was no *post-mortem* examination, as it was an obvious case of suicide. The Subdivisional Magistrate made a personal inquiry and found that Baksh Mondal had committed suicide owing to colic, from which he had been suffering for some time.

(c) The question does not arise.

Pollution of water by jute steeping.

19. Maulvi ABDUR RASCHID KHAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that cultivators of jute pollute water by steeping jute in it?

(b) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps for preventing such pollution of water?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:

(a) It is well-known fact that cultivators do pollute water with jute.

(b) Power to prevent pollution of water rests with the local authorities. Under section 199 of the Bengal Municipal Act the Municipal Commissioners may set apart wells, tanks, or parts of rivers, streams or channels not being private property, for the supply of water for drinking and for culinary purposes: and may prohibit therein all

bathing, washing of clothes and animals, or other acts calculated to pollute the water set apart for the purposes aforesaid. They may also prohibit in the private portion of any stream or channel used as a part of the public water-supply, bathing, washing of clothes or animals, or any act likely to pollute the water in the public portion of such stream or channel.

Municipal Commissioners are also empowered, under section 350 (b) of the Bengal Municipal Act, to frame bye-laws, for the prevention of nuisances in regard to public water supply, streams, channels, tanks and wells, and under section 351 of the Act the bye-laws require confirmation by Government. Model bye-laws have been framed by Government for the purpose, which most of the municipalities have adopted. One of these model bye-laws, viz., No. 51, provides against the fouling of water by the steeping of jute; the penalty provided being a fine of Rs. 10.

Under section 90 of the Local Self-Government Act a District Board may, by an order duly published, set apart tanks, parts of rivers, streams, or channels, not being private property or under the control of any officer of the Government, for the supply of water for drinking and for culinary purposes.

Under section 139, Local Self-Government Act, district boards and local boards are empowered to make bye-laws for carrying out all or any of the purposes of the Act. Model bye-laws under this section have been framed by Government, which the district boards have generally adopted with the sanction of the Divisional Commissioners. One of these bye-laws (viz. 39) provides against the fouling of water in a reserved tank by the steeping of jute or bamboos, the penalty provided being a maximum fine of Rs. 50.

Union Committees have power under section 118A of the Local Self-Government Act to drain or cleanse any tank or well or otherwise prevent it from being prejudicial to health. They may also set apart any tank, well, stream or water-course for the supply of water for drinking or culinary purposes.

Section 30 of the Village Self-Government Act empowers Union Boards to set apart any tank, well, stream or water-course for drinking or culinary purpose and to prohibit the steeping of jute in them. Any person who disobeys an order issued by a Union Board under this section may be punished with fine extending to Rs. 25.

Any tank, well, stream or water-course set apart by local bodies is a public spring or reservoir within the meaning of section 277 of the Indian Penal Code, and any person voluntarily corrupting or fouling the same is punishable under the same section with three months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500.

Local bodies have thus been given ample power to put a stop to the fouling of water supply by jute steeping, and the Minister considers that no further action on the part of Government is required in the matter.

Madrasahs and Pathshalas within Bhatpara Municipality.

20. Dr. H. W. B. MORENO: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the number of—

(i) Madrasahs; and

(ii) Pathshalas

, within the Bhatpara Municipality?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be also pleased to state the yearly Government maintenance grants sanctioned to these Madrasahs and Pathshalas, and what yearly or monthly contributions, if any, the mill proprietors pay towards the upkeep of these Madrasahs and Pathshalas?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of adding to the number of Madrasahs and Pathshalas in the near future within the Bhatpara Municipality?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) There are in the Municipality of Bhatpara—

(i) No Madrasahs, but there are 4 Maktabas.

(ii) 7 Pathshalas—4 for boys and 3 for girls.

(b) The annual Government grant sanctioned for these Maktabas and Pathshalas is Rs. 877 distributed as follows:—

| | Rs. |
|--|-----|
| (1) From the former "Imperial" grant for Primary Schools ... | 252 |
| (2) Grant-in-aid to two Girls' Upper Primary Schools ... | 432 |
| (3) Departmental Maktab grant ... | 85 |
| (4) Departmental Primary School grant ... | 108 |
| Total | 877 |

There are no records to show that any contribution at all is made by mill-owners towards the cost of the upkeep of these institutions.

(c) Government will be glad to receive applications for grants-in-aid to new Madrasahs, and to consider the question of aiding them when new recurring funds are available for distribution. A scheme for the expansion of Primary Education will also be very sympathetically considered, if drawn up on the principles now accepted by Government.

Stoppage of grant to Munshiganj High School.

21. Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, insisted on the Managing Committee of the Munshiganj High English School restricting the school to the four top classes?

(b) Is it a fact that the grant-in-aid of the said school has been stopped since March, 1923, because the Managing Committee of the school did not accept the above proposal?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Government to restrict all High English schools to the four top classes only?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason for which the grant to the Munshiganj High English School was stopped?

(e) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason for which it is not introduced in the Government High Schools?

(f) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) Yes: for the reasons explained in the answer to clause (d) below.

(b) No. The High School grant has been drawn up to last December and it was stopped from the 1st January, 1924.

(c) No.

(d) In 1916 the classes in the Munshiganj High School were very badly congested. The Director of Public Instruction visited the school in July that year and as a result of his criticism on this point a Middle English School was started in the same compound and under the same Managing Committee. Classes III and IV only were then cut off from the High School.

As a result of the non-co-operation movement the enrolment in both schools rapidly declined and the Committee proposed to re-amalgamate them and abolish the posts of several of the Middle English School teachers, leaving the High School staff intact. This proposal aroused much local feeling, as the enrolments in the respective Middle English classes showed that the Middle English School was the more popular. The Inspector of Schools, Dacca, accordingly suggested that it would be more reasonable to curtail the Middle English classes from the High School and asked for revised proposals on these lines. Subsequently he deputed the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Muhammadan Education to investigate. The Assistant Inspector reported that the balance of local opinion was undoubtedly in favour of keeping the two institutions separate, so in order to obviate unnecessary friction and rivalry the Inspector of Schools decided that the High School should be limited to the top four classes only.

(e) The question does not arise.

(f) The matter is still under correspondence between the Inspector and the Committee. This grant will be renewed whenever satisfactory

guarantees are obtained from the committee as to the future management and staffing of the High School.

Posts of Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.

22. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:

(a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether the two posts of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police will be abolished as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee in paragraph 169 of their report?

(b) If not, what are the grounds upon which the Government has decided to retain these posts?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (a) Government have not accepted the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee for the abolition of two posts of Range Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.

(b) In the opinion of Government three Range Deputy Inspectors-General are not sufficient even on the lines suggested by the Retrenchment Committee. A minimum of five officers is necessary for the proper performance of the duties pertaining to a Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

Redistribution and readjustment of Police work.

23. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:

(a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that the ordinary Criminal Investigation Department attached to each district is, mainly, busy in the works of the prevention of crimes, such as gang cases, etc., and takes little part in the actual detection of premeditated and preconcerted crimes;

(ii) whether it is a fact that the ordinary thana officers are busy with office and preventive works and have little time, leisure and opportunity to detect premeditated and preconcerted crimes and

(iii) whether it is a fact that the majority of preconcerted and well-planned crimes remain undetected?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of thoroughly investigating the question by a committee composed of officials and non-officials for the redistribution or readjustment of police works?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) (i) Criminal Investigation Departments are attached to only four districts, viz., 24-Parganas,

Midnapore, Howrah and Dacca and also to the three Railway police districts at Howrah, Sealdah and Saidpur. They are employed practically exclusively in the investigation and detection of the more serious crimes.

(ii) The ordinary work of the thana officer, under present conditions affecting the strength of the thana force, limits their time and opportunity for dealing with professional crime.

(iii) Preconcerted and well-planned crimes often remain undetected, it being impossible with the present staff always to obtain the assistance of experienced and trained officers of the Criminal Investigation and Detective Departments.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration, the difficulties being due to financial limitations, rather than to the need of redistribution.

Statement laid on the table with reference to the reply given by the Hon'ble the Finance Member to unstarred question No. 29 put by Babu Satya Kishore Banerjee at the meeting of the Council held on the 24th January, 1924.

In continuation of the answer to unstarred question No. 29, asked by Babu Satya Kishore Banerjee in January, 1924, inquiring what steps had been taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, the member is referred to the statement showing the action taken in regard to the various recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, which has been revised up to the 15th February, 1924. A copy of this statement is laid on the Library table and copies will be circulated to all members of the Council for information.

Certificates under section 72D of the Government of India Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON, I hereby lay on the table the certificates granted by His Excellency the Governor in respect of certain grants refused by this Council.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 33,66,000 under the head "5—Land Revenue" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 26th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 9,62,000 under the head "7—Stamps" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 26th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 8,62,000 under the head "8—Forests" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 26th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 15,000 under the head "9A—Scheduled Taxes" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 26th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that an expenditure of Rs. 6,66,000 out of the demand of Rs. 11,30,000 under the head "16—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that an expenditure of Rs. 23,27,000 out of the demand of Rs. 28,44,000 under the head "15—Irrigation—Other Revenue expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenue" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

DARJEELING,
The 19th April, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 91,83,000 under the head "22—General Administration" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 4th April, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 30,000 for the renewal of furniture and carpets in Government Houses under the head "22A—General Administration—Staff and Household of the Governor", is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

DARJEELING,

The 11th April, 1924.

Under proviso (b) to section 72D (2) of the Government of India Act, I hereby authorise, as a case of emergency, the expenditure of Rs. 2,70,000, which, in my opinion, is necessary for the carrying on of the Civil Secretariat in those Departments which administer transferred subjects and for the payment of travelling expenses incurred by Ministers in the administration of their Departments.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

DARJEELING,

The 11th April, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 35,940 for preparation of paper books under the head "24—Administration of Justice" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 7th April, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 94,37,060 under the head "24—Administration of Justice" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 7th April, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 35,89,000 under the head "25—Jails and Convict Settlements" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the proper administration of that subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 27th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure of Rs. 26,940 provided for by the demand of Rs. 58,880 for the pay of European constables of the District Police under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,

Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure of Rs. 57,000 provided for by the demand of Rs. 1,37,000 for the pay of Temporary District Intelligence Staff under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure of Rs. 2,37,000 provided for by the demand of Rs. 69,84,518 for the total District Police Force under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure of Rs. 50,000 provided for by the demand of Rs. 1,45,000 for the Police Training School under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 1,55,200 for the pay of Superintendents of the District Police under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure of Rs. 41,325 provided for by the demand of Rs. 1,65,300 for the pay of Inspectors of the Calcutta Police under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure of Rs. 1,00,000 provided for by the demand of Rs. 1,97,500 for Superintendence of the Bengal Police under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 10,800 for the pay of Assistant Superintendents of the District Police under the head "26—Police" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 29th March, 1924.

I hereby certify that the expenditure provided for by the demand of Rs. 5,54,000 under the head "27—Ports and Pilotage" is essential to the discharge of my responsibility for the subject.

LYTTON,
Governor of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 4th April, 1924.

President's ruling on motion for adjournment of the business of the Council.

Mr. D. N. ROY: Sir, I desire to ask your ruling on certain points which I am going to raise. On Thursday last the 21st instant I sent a notice of motion asking for leave to move for an adjournment of the business of the Council to-day for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, that by reason of the acute feeling—

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you reading out your motion? I cannot allow you to read out the terms of your motion.

Mr. D. N. ROY: My point depends upon the wording of that resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot allow you to read out the terms of the motion.

Mr. D. N. ROY: But that is what I am going to ask your ruling on. Unless I state the subject-matter of my motion, how am I to ask your ruling?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may mention the subject in regard to which you desire my ruling. You are not allowed to read out the terms of the motion, because the motion contains grossly insulting expressions with regard to His Excellency the Governor. I shall not allow you to read the motion. That is my definite ruling. You may refer to the subject, but you may not read out the terms of your motion.

Mr. D. N. ROY: I have not the slightest intention of disobeying your ruling. Unless I can make it quite clear what is the subject-matter of my motion, how can I ask for your ruling?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You may certainly mention the subject-matter.

Mr. D. N. ROY: Before you hear me you say you cannot allow me to read out the motion. I sent a notice asking for leave to move for an

adjournment of the business of this Council to discuss a definite matter of public importance, namely, by reason of the acute feeling in the minds of the people of this province created by the insulting speech of His Excellency—

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Roy, you are doing exactly what I told you that you could not do. I must ask you to resume your seat. In spite of my ruling, you have used that phrase—

Mr. D. N. ROY: I have not mentioned—

Mr. PRESIDENT: I distinctly gave my ruling, and you have, in spite of that, used the phrase which I said you were not to use in Council.

Mr. D. N. ROY: Very well, I will not mention the terms of the—

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have given my ruling. Will you resume your seat? I decline to hear you any further.

Mr. D. N. ROY: I withdraw the—

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order! Order!

Government Business.

Demands for Grants.

22.—General Administration (Transferred).

The Hon'ble Mr. DONALD: I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22.—General Administration (Transferred)" on account of the salaries of the Ministers.

Mr. D. N. ROY: May I rise to a point of order?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Does it refer to the demand for grant?

Mr. D. N. ROY: Yes. My point is that this demand for grant cannot be moved at all. There is no provision either in the Government of India Act or in the rules framed under that Act which enables a grant which has been once refused by this House to be moved again. There is no provision at all in the whole of the Act or in the rules under the Act. That is my point.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The answer is very simple. Under notification No. F.—76—I/24—A., in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 72D, read with sub-section (1) of section 129A of the Government of India Act, the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council, has been pleased to

direct an amendment of the rules made under the Act, and under this amendment this demand for grant is perfectly in order. I rule it is in order.

Mr. D. N. ROY: I submit that there is no provision at all——

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have given my ruling on that point. If you have any other point to make, please make it now.

Mr. D. N. ROY: I now take the second point of order upon the new amended rule. That rule, I take it, according to the notification in the *Gazette of India*, was “in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 72D, read with sub-section (1) of section 129A of the Government of India Act.” Sub-section (1) of section 129A has reference necessarily to sub-section (3) of that section. I think I better read out sub-section (3) to make my meaning perfectly clear. Now sub-section (3) of section 129A says: “Any rules to which sub-section (1) of this section applies shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after they are made, and, if an Address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next thirty days on which that House has sat after the rules are laid before it praying that the rules or any of them may be annulled, His Majesty in Council may annul the rules or any of them,” and so forth.

My point is this, that these rules have been made, but have not been presented before both the Houses of Parliament under that sub-section. As it is sub-section (3) is peremptory and the words distinctly are that “any rules shall be laid before,” and in confirmation of my argument and to strengthen my position, the Devolution Rules as well as the rules made under the Government of India Act—I mean the Council rules—distinctly state in the preamble the fact that those rules have been laid before both Houses of Parliament and sanctioned by them. The preamble to the Devolution Rules runs as follows: “In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 45A and 129A of the Government of India Act, the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council, is pleased to make the following rules, the same having been approved by both Houses of Parliament.” The preamble to the Indian Legislative Rules are practically in the same terms: they definitely state that these rules were presented before both Houses of Parliament. I omit the first three paragraphs of the preamble to the Governor’s Legislative Council Rules; the fourth paragraph says: “And whereas a draft of such rules was laid before both Houses of Parliament and was duly approved by them with certain modifications and additions.”

The *Gazette of India Extraordinary* does not say that these rules were laid before both Houses of Parliament. The notification in the *Gazette* is absolutely clear on that point. It merely says: “In exercise of the

powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 72D, read with sub-section (1) of section 129A of the Government of India Act, the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council, is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Bengal Legislative Council rules," and so on.

It merely refers to sub-section (1) which, of course, I do not question, because that only refers to the power of the Governor-General in Council to promulgate rules with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council. Besides that there is no mention in that notification that these rules have in fact been laid before both Houses of Parliament, and their sanction obtained. Until this is done, these rules cannot have the force of law in this country.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Roy, you must remember there must not be a long legal argument. You must state your case as shortly as you can.

MR. D. N. ROY: I know; these are all my arguments. So I say that the rule is therefore *ultra vires*, and in fact it is not law which will enable the Hon'ble Mr. Donald to move this demand.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Roy, I must say your argument is most ingenious, and I appreciate its ingenuity, though not its substance. It may be that the Hon'ble Member in the secret recesses of his heart is of the same opinion. The quotation of section 129 A by itself will not suffice. That section is to be read with section 72D (5): "Provision may be made by rules under this Act for the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing provisions of this section and for regulating the course of business in the Council." These are amendments which relate to the course of business in the Council. In section 129A (3), the first words are of a limited and restricted character and the provisions of sub-section (1) only apply to such rules as those to which sub-section (3) of that section applies. These are not rules to which sub-section (1) of the section applies; they are rules made under sub-section (1) in conjunction with section 72D of the Government of India Act.

If the Hon'ble Member has any further grievance in the matter, he must submit it to the Government of India. I rule that this demand is in order, and I call upon the Hon'ble Mr. Donald to move it.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. DONALD: This demand is intended to make provision in the budget of the current year for the payment of the salaries to those holding the appointment of Ministers in the Government of Bengal. It covers the salaries of two Ministers for twelve months, from the 1st April last, and of a third Minister as from the 1st September to the close of the year. This third Minister has not yet been appointed. In the absence of any provision for such a salary

it has not been possible to appoint a third Minister and, unless and until the motion I am now putting forward is carried, no third Minister can be appointed. The original demand for provision for the salaries of Ministers, when the estimates were presented last cold weather, was rejected by the Council on the 24th March, by a majority of one, on the motion of Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq Chaudhury. It is the desire of Government that this matter be placed again before the Council, and before dealing with the main issue, I shall first explain the reasons which impelled Government to bring the matter again before the Council. This demand is not a supplementary demand—a supplementary demand is intended to meet a case where the amount voted in the budget has proved insufficient. It is not an additional demand, as it is not a new need, a need not contemplated when the budget was presented. It is an old demand presented for reconsideration, and in putting it forward now we have been guided by the observations contained in clause 11 of the Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament. In connection with demands for reserved subjects, the Governor has the power to restore a rejected demand by a certificate that the expenditure is essential to the proper administration of the subject—to the discharge of his responsibility for the subject. In this way, the Governor has the power to review the decision of the Council. On the transferred side, Government are bound by the decision of the Council in respect of any particular demand, but it was laid down by the Joint Committee that the Governor, if so advised by his Ministers, would be justified in asking the Council to reconsider their decision on any particular provision. It is in the spirit of that recommendation that we now ask the Council to consider again the demand I am now making, and the reasons we do so are: firstly, that we feel that the vote of the Council on the 24th March last was given under a misapprehension without sufficient knowledge of the constitutional issues involved, and secondly, that that decision was inconsistent with the action of the Council on the 25th February when they threw out what was tantamount to a vote of no confidence in the Ministers. In the face of these two conflicting conclusions, and with an apparently imperfect knowledge of the constitutional issues, it is necessary that we should have the considered opinion of this Council.

Now, the Council can only have had two objects in rejecting the demand which was made in this connection last March. The first was to mark their dissatisfaction with the existing form of constitution, and by refusing supplies for the employment of any Ministers to force the Governor to administer temporarily the transferred departments without the help of any Ministers, and ultimately to induce Parliament to amend the constitution in the sense desired. The second object perhaps was to express dissatisfaction with the policy of the existing Ministers, and to secure the appointment of others. These two objects are entirely distinct and separate, but I fancy that they

were somewhat mixed in the minds of many members who voted for the rejection of this demand in March last.

Let me deal with the second one first. If it were the object of members to pass a vote of censure on the two existing Ministers, which would necessitate their resignation and the appointment of others in their place, they entirely frustrated that object by the action which they took, since by including in their vote the salary of a Minister who had not yet been appointed, and could not therefore be the object of censure, they deprived it of any character of a vote of censure. And by leaving no funds for the payment of any Minister, they made impossible the appointment of any successors if the existing Ministers had resigned. As an expression of dissatisfaction, therefore, with the policy of my two Hon'ble colleagues, the rejection of the whole demand for their salaries was mistaken and failed of its object. I hope that no one will repeat that mistake on this occasion and imagine that by voting for the rejection of the demand I am now making, he is expressing any disapproval of either the persons or policy of the Ministers.

Now, let me deal with the other object, which was no doubt uppermost in the minds of those who voted against the Ministers' salaries last March—the object, namely, of obtaining a new constitution by wrecking the existing one.

The failure to make provision for any Ministers was an unconstitutional act. It has been justified and defended as consistent with the terms of section 72D, which authorise the Council to reduce or reject any demand for grants that may be submitted to them. But it is an elementary principle of law that no section of a Statute can authorise that which is inconsistent with or opposed to the object of the whole statute, and I will show that the action of the Council, which it is sought to be justified by a reference to section 72D, is in fact inconsistent with the provisions of the rest of the Act.

The administration of transferred subjects is the particular duty of Ministers. "In relation to transferred subjects," says the Government of India Act, 1919, "the Governor shall be guided by the advice of his Ministers." It is, therefore, clearly contemplated in the Act that the transferred subjects shall be administered by Ministers. Indeed, this is the main feature which differentiates the Act of 1919 from all its predecessors and embodied the declared policy of Parliament to establish immediately an element of responsibility in the provincial Government with a view to the ultimate establishment of complete responsible government in British India. Now, if there are to be Ministers, there must be a salary attached to the office. As Sir Hugh Stephenson said in the course of the debate on the 24th March, if you are going in for a democratic constitution, you must so fix the salary of your Ministers, that it will not only be the rich that can accept such posts. This has been the principle of all democracies. Ministers

must be given a salary which will make it possible to obtain men of the required calibre from any class of society. Section 52 of the Act provides that there may be paid to a Minister the same salary as is payable to a Member of the Executive Council, unless a smaller salary is provided by vote of the Council. Hitherto we have made provision for the salaries of three Ministers. It has so far been held that three Ministers are essential for the discharge of the duties connected with the administration of the transferred subjects, and their salaries have been paid at the same rate as that fixed for the Members of the Executive Council. Until the current year, these arrangements, the number of Ministers and the salary paid, have been confirmed by the vote of the Council. By its vote on the 24th March, the Council rejected the entire provision for the salaries of Ministers. Such action is entirely contrary to the spirit of the constitution. The provisions of section 52 of the Act do not contemplate honorary Ministers, and as I have already said, such would not be in accord with the principle of democratic constitutions. The intention of the section has reference to the Minister's salary in relation to that of a Member of Council, but clearly aims at the provision of a definite salary—a salary sufficient to obtain a suitable Minister. In refusing the salaries of Ministers, the Council have, therefore, gone beyond the spirit of the constitution.

Had the present Ministers not consented to carry on, it would have been necessary to have recourse to the provision of the Transferred Subjects (Temporary Administration) Rules. These rules provide for the temporary administration of transferred subjects in the absence of Ministers, but only until such time as a Minister is appointed to administer the subject. This, again, contemplates the appointment of Ministers, but in the absence of provision for payment of Ministers, if the Council continued to withhold such provision, such administration would be prolonged to such an extent and would be so much more than temporary, that recourse would have to be taken to measures such as the transfer to the reserved list of the transferred subjects, a going back on the whole object of the Reforms. I cannot believe that this Council would seriously contemplate a reversal to the old conditions and the loss of the power and responsibilities which have been conferred on the legislatures. The situation can still be gauged from present conditions. With a few exceptions in details, the budgets of the transferred departments were passed by the Council. The existing activities of these departments continue in full. The Council will, I think, realise that it would be utterly impossible for the Governor to administer all these departments, except for a very short period, and that period could only be short, when no provision existed for the salary of a Minister, and no Minister could therefore be appointed. The ultimate result would be the transfer of these departments to the reserved list, so that they might be administered by Members of the Executive Council. Is the Council prepared to contemplate this with

equanimity? Are they prepared to go back to the old system of administration? Certain branches of the administration have been made over to Ministers selected from members of the Legislative Council responsible to the Council. This is a step on the road to self-government, an opportunity for showing the fitness of the people's representatives for the general administration of the province. Does the Council desire to throw away this opportunity, and retard the advance on the road to self-government? It has been urged that the overthrow of the existing constitution will compel Parliament to grant a greater measure of self-government than has been given under the present Reforms. Let me remind those who urge this view that the present Reforms were the result of a close examination of all the possibilities of the situation. They have been given so far only a short trial; there may be disabilities and defects—this is inevitable in a transitional system—but the road to self-government will be far easier, more smooth if they continue to be worked than by a reversal to the old form of administration.

The issues which the Council has to determine on the motion which I am now making and on the motions for reduction on the paper are two in number—and Mr. Khaitan has referred to this—and I would ask Members of the Council to bear them clearly in mind and not to confuse them in giving their votes. They are:—

- (1) Does this Council desire to preserve the constitution and maintain Reforms? (A voice: No.) Does it want Ministers? (A voice: No.) If it does, it will reject the motions which provide no salaries at all, or only salaries of nominal amount, or an amount utterly inadequate to secure men of the necessary calibre. If it accepts these particular motions for total refusal or reduction, then this means the suspension of the the Reforms and the disabilities I have referred to. This is not an issue connected with the *personnel* of the Ministry. It is a large constitutional issue. Do you desire Ministers or do you not? Do you desire to maintain the Reforms or not? If you desire Ministers, if you wish to retain Ministers—I do not refer to the *personnel*—you must reject these particular motions.
- (2) The second issue has reference to the pay of Ministers. It is within the power of the Council to fix by vote a lower rate of salary than that authorised by section 52 of the Government of India Act to be made applicable to any member holding the post of Ministers. Any reduction made by one or any of such motions will not be interpreted as implying a censure on the present Ministers. This is, again, a question not affecting the particular person in the Ministry. The demand, as I have presented it, and as I have already explained, provides a salary equivalent to that of a Member of Council.

It is for the Council to determine whether the salary which would follow on the adoption of the motions for a reduction is sufficient for a Minister. As I have already said, this question has been debated more than once in this Council, and so far the conclusion has always been that there should be no differentiation between the pay of the Ministers and that of the Members of the Executive Council.

These, I repeat, are impersonal issues. They are distinct from, and have a wider aspect than, that of the *personnel*. They involve the whole constitution. If this Council wants to maintain the constitution and not to go back upon the Reforms, wants to carry on the purpose of the Government of India Act on the road to self-government, they will reject these motions for reduction and pass the demand which I have made.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head "22.—General Administration (Transferred)," on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be refused.

In giving a reply to the arguments advanced by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, I labour under a certain disadvantage, and that is simply this. I could not very well catch his words. What little could be heard at the beginning became absolutely inaudible when there was a little rain over us. ^{So} I have got some words here and some words there and I shall try to meet them as best as I can.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Akhil Babu, would you please speak a little louder?

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: I am speaking very much louder than Mr. Donald did.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am anxious to hear you clearly.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: I was, on the other hand, complaining that I could not catch Mr. Donald's words.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I know that. What I was suggesting was that you should make your own position clear.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: Now, we in this gilded chamber are assembled under the summons of His Excellency to pronounce the people's verdict on this demand for the Ministers' salary. It is now a little over five months that the original demand was refused by this Council. The question is, what has happened since then to alter our position? Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Donald has said that there are two things: One is whether we are going to refuse it on the constitutional issue, or whether we are going to refuse it on the ground of want of confidence in the present Ministers. These are two things which should

certainly be kept apart. So far as the first point is concerned, dyarchy must go ("Hear," "hear"). That has been the verdict of the people from one end of the country to the other (Question!). There is no question about that. I knew that the question would be raised from that quarter, and I was careful enough to say "the people of the country" ("Hear," "hear"). That has been the verdict, that has been the pronouncement—the final and irrevocable pronouncement—not merely of the no-changers, the orthodox non-co-operators—not only of the Swarajists, not only of the Nationalists, but, I say, that has been the verdict of all the moderate people—of all *ultra-Moderates* and of all constitutionists ("Hear," "hear").

Now, let us consider what has been the verdict as regards this particular part of the dyarchy, *viz.*, the Ministers. It has been said that these Ministers are puppets, mere figure-heads ("Hear," "hear") absolutely exercising no power at all—this has been said, not by irresponsible people like ourselves (Laughter). It has been said that these Ministers are mere glorified Under-Secretaries ("Hear," "hear"). I say "Under-Secretaries" advisedly, because they are dominated not only by the Governor, not only by the Finance Member, but by their own Secretaries ("Hear," "hear"). Now, Sir, who has pronounced this verdict?—Our ex-Ministers, including Mr. Chintamani—that prince of Moderates! ("Hear," "hear"). If that is so, the Ministers must go. But, Sir, I am very anxious to emphasise one fact. Although that is the feeling in the country, at the same time I must point out that when in March last we refused the Ministers' salary, it was not on the constitutional issue, but we refused it on the ground of no confidence in the Ministers. There can be no manner of doubt about that. Our position was made absolutely clear at that time. We said substantially this—that we refused their salaries because they are not the people's men. They voted against the popular verdict on the question of the release of the political prisoners, on the repeal of the repressive laws, on the question of the transfer of some of the departments to the transferred side. Even the benighted Assam Ministers supported the popular verdict on this last question ("Hear," "hear"). We said at the time that we had no confidence in them and they must go. That was the position we took up at that time, and that was the position taken not only by the people of the Nationalist party, but even the members of the Swaraj party. I may refer to one typical instance, and that is the speech of my friend, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq Chaudhury, who said: "This Council knows that my friend, Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, some time ago sent a resolution to the Hon'ble the President, in which he wanted to pass a vote of non-confidence on the Ministers; but the Hon'ble the President disallowed it at the time, saying that when the salary of the Ministers came before the Council, if the Council passed a resolution refusing the whole demand, it would be taken as a vote of censure

on the Ministers ("Hear," "hear"), or rather a vote of no-confidence in the Ministers."

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hope, Akhil Babu, you are not going to credit me with any version of my ruling that may have been given by Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq Chaudhury. A much more satisfactory way of quoting the ruling is to read it in the form in which I actually gave it and not to present a version given to it by some member of the Council.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: I can assure you that I was not quarrelling with this ruling. In fact, my attention was not directed to it in any way. My attention was confined to the position taken by the gentlemen who moved for the refusal of the demand.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is quite correct. My point remains unaffected. You are reading some statement which purports to state what my ruling was. The proper course is to quote the ruling itself and not to give a version of it as given by some member of the Council.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: There was one sentence in which that ground was taken and reference made to the ruling; beyond that, the ruling is absolutely immaterial to me for my present purpose.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Quite so.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: That was our attitude in March so far as this motion was concerned, and I am extremely anxious to explain this to the members of this Council that so far as this motion goes, I am content to adhere to the position that was taken up in March last ("Hear," "hear"). In other words, so far as I am concerned, I ask the members of this Council to refuse this grant on the ground—on the very same ground—want of confidence in the Ministers ("Hear," "hear"). Although the question of constitutional issue was not raised at the time when the Ministers' salary was refused in March last, yet a constitutional question of far-reaching consequence has arisen since then in consequence of the attitude of the Government and the attitude of the Ministers with respect to that decision. Now, what was the constitutional issue created by that decision of the House? That was this—the Ministers ought to have resigned and ought to have been made to resign. That was the inevitable result of the decision of this Council refusing the Ministers' salary. Now, that is not merely my view—that was the view, Sir, taken by His Excellency in this Council Chamber on the 18th March last, when he said: "I have not come here not to make a speech, not to employ a single argument, but I have only to state what will happen and what can happen if the budget is rejected. The first thing that would happen is that not only would the present Ministers have to resign, but that no other Ministers could be appointed in their place, because there would be no funds" ("Hear," "hear").

That was the view taken by His Excellency: if the Ministers' salary was refused, then the Ministers would have to resign. The question then arises—have they resigned? They ought to have walked out with bag and baggage; they ought to have cleared out lock, stock and barrel. His Excellency, however, did not ask them to resign, and therefore I may say His Excellency has acted unconstitutionally. Much water has flown down the Ganges since then—five months have elapsed since then; but the Ministers are still there, not asked to resign, not made to resign. After waiting for a reasonable time, I sent in a notice of a resolution demanding that the Ministers should be asked to resign in view of the refusal of their salary by the Council, but my resolution was disallowed on the ground that it was not primarily the concern of the Bengal Government. I felt at the time that it was a colossal hoax to suggest that the Bengal Government had nothing to do with the retention or the resignation of the Bengal Ministers. I do not know if the Government of Honolulu would solve the problem. What, again, is the constitutional position so far as the Ministers are concerned? In spite of the vote of censure, they are still sitting tight in their adamantine *gadi*, setting at naught the verdict of the Council, loyal to the bureaucracy and irresponsible to the elected representatives of the people (cries of "Shame," "shame"), going to the lobby uniformly, indiscriminately, blindly and automatically with the officials under their bidding, express or implied ("Hear," "hear"), dancing in joy—

[At this stage the member reached the time-limit.]

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please finish your sentence.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: I may say one thing, namely, the people want provincial autonomy.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That does not arise on this question of the Ministers' salary.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: A little sparrow whispers into my ears that the two Ministers have only the other day gone to the length of opposing any further advance, on the ground that the electorate are not yet educated. If that is so, are they responsible to the elected representatives of the people? The whole question is—are the Ministers lawfully and constitutionally holding their office or are they mere trespassers? I wonder what would have been the result if the suit in the High Court had been proceeded with. What would happen if a case of trespass was instituted before Mr. Roxburgh, the Presidency Magistrate? We have been told in a communiqué on the 14th April that the Ministers did not regard this refusal as equivalent to a vote of censure. Sir, this only reminds one of that old vulgar story of a naib who wrote to his people: "I have been shoe-beaten to-day:

I may also be insulted to-morrow." It is difficult to conceive how we can convey our censure more effectively and more unequivocally. It has been said, Sir, that on February, 20th, a motion which was equivalent—

Mr. PRESIDENT: You made a very good ending. If I may say so, you have just now finished with an admirable sentence. The rest of your speech, you must, I am afraid, take as read.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: Only two minutes more, Sir, and I shall conclude.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well, I can give you two minutes more.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: Now, the position has been altered in this way—that there has been no reason as to why the demand should be reconsidered. What I mean to say is that so far as the Government are concerned, if they had asked the Ministers to resign and, after their resignation if the Government had come forward with this estimate for an additional grant, then we might reconsider the position. What, however, was done by the Government? Why they brought forward a supplementary estimate. We protested against it; we said that it was unconstitutional—

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am afraid, Akhil Babu, you cannot go into that. Even if you had not exceeded your 15 minutes' allowance of time, you could not go into that question at all.

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: Very well, Sir. I recommend this motion and ask the Council to reject the demand on this distinct ground—I am not going into the larger question of constitutional issue—of want of confidence; and as regards the third Minister, I oppose it in view of the announcement made the other day in a communiqué issued from Dacca, viz., that the third Minister would be selected from amongst those people who support the motion for the retention of the Ministers ("Hear," "hear"). This is nothing but inviting applications such as: "As regards my qualification, although I am not qualified, I apply for the Ministership, as I voted for the Ministers' salary on the 26th August."

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: I beg to support the motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have got only 15 minutes.

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: I won't speak more than one minute.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not want to stop you in the middle of your speech.

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: I would ask my friends in this Council to vote for my motion and vote against the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, firstly, as a protest against the conduct—I should say—of His Excellency or of the Government of Bengal in getting the rules changed in such a way behind our backs and putting this demand before us unconstitutionally; secondly, because we in Bengal—whether we be Moderates or No-changers or Swarajists or ex-Ministers—all of us are of opinion that dyarchy must go. My friend, Babu Akhil Chandra Datta, had asked you to vote for his motion, rejecting this demand for the salaries of the Ministers, on the ground that by that motion we would say that the Ministers do not enjoy our confidence. I say that not only, if this resolution is carried, it would show not only that the Ministers do not enjoy our confidence, but also, so far as this side of the House is concerned, so far as the Swarajists are concerned, so far as the Nationalists and those who do not believe in dyarchy are concerned, this resolution, if carried, would show that we would vote against dyarchy and we do not object to the administration of the transferred departments being taken up by His Excellency the Governor. Let him carry on and let us see how long His Excellency carries on the administration of the province.

Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY: In opposing the motion for the supplementary demand for Ministers' salary I would add only a few words. I must strongly repudiate the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member that in March last we did not act in full appreciation of the constitutional issue involved. I can assure him that by whatever additional considerations we might have been guided, our vote was determined by a full and thorough consideration of the constitutional issue. The present constitution, the sham of a dyarchy, has been condemned all over the country, and during the last few days it has been condemned in two different places very effectively. Babu Akhil Chandra Datta has referred to the unanimous verdict of the ex-Ministers. I might add that the Government have by a fatal step sounded the death-knell of the dyarchy. The Government by altering the rules have enabled the Council to consider for a second time the question of the salary of Ministers, and I may say that in taking that step the Government have said—and very effectively said—"Dyarchy is dead."

Mr. D. N. ROY: I do not want to speak. I simply move the motion.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I do not want to make a speech. I support the motion.

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: We have been told that we offer bribes. I find, however, that Government are also offering bribes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That does not arise on this amendment. There is no question of bribe-taking or bribe-giving involved.

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: I have not finished yet. I shall speak on this resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question of taking and giving bribes does not arise on this resolution, and I do not want to have to repeat it again.

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: Bait has been offered. Those who vote——

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must obey my ruling. I cannot have this constant disobedience to my ruling. It is impossible to carry on if a member does not obey the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: On the last occasion, when this matter came for the consideration of this House, I was not privileged to be here and make clear the position and the attitude of the Nationalist members of this House whom I have the honour to lead. As it is quite possible that my career of usefulness here may be cut short on this occasion also by a communication from His Excellency, delivered through a special messenger at any moment, I am taking this early opportunity of having my say on this question.

I desire at the outset to make it clear that as a party, though opposed to dyarchy on principle, we are not committed to any policy of obstruction, pure and simple. Nor is it any part of our principles or policy to debar ourselves from acceptance of office, provided it can be done consistently with self-respect and with a view to hasten the early attainment of provincial autonomy.

This being a very short outline of our general policy, let me now turn to a consideration of the particular motion before the House. Speaking from a constitutional point of view—which is also the commonsense point of view and was until lately the legal point of view—the vote of this House on the question of the salaries of the Ministers on the last occasion was tantamount to a vote of no confidence in them and should have been followed immediately by their resignation, which, I venture to submit, should have been accepted. This would have been the self-respecting course for the Ministers in question—a course which would also have redounded to the upholding of the constitution and the dignity of this House, for which, I suppose, we all are and ought to be anxious. Instead of this, we have been witnesses to the sorry spectacle of a change in the rules of this House in the face of an injunction from the High Court. Nothing could have been more humiliating and subversive of the dignity of this House and of its constitution, about which so much is heard. Besides, the common-sense, the constitutional and the dignified course would not have led to any deadlock in practice, as, I believe, there are many members of this House who are not pledged on principle either to the non-acceptance of office or to downright

unmitigated obstruction. In matters like the present, we have to act on first principles and to so act as to broaden and liberalise if we can the constitution, even as it is, from "precedent to precedent." We have, therefore, after mature consideration of all the circumstances, decided as a party to oppose this motion and vote against its acceptance.

Sir WILLOUGHBY CAREY: This is a subject about which much dust has arisen and about which much dust has wilfully been raised. One point has been mentioned by two of the last speakers, and that is the introduction of the new rule. Well, I think, I am perfectly correct in letting the House know what I have heard that Bengal had nothing whatever to do with it. Neither the Government of Bengal nor the President of the Council or any one in Bengal had anything whatever to do with the introduction of that rule. Babu Akhil Chandra Datta also spoke much about the Ministers. Well, the issue, I think as put to us by the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, is quite clear. Mr. Donald has told the House all the details. The issue is simply this: either we will have the present constitution, or its reversal, and a reversion to the former state of things obtaining before the Reforms. Now the Swaraj party have declared themselves openly in favour of destroying the present arrangement, not because of its admitted difficulties, of which we have read so much of late in the evidence given, and which in spite of all, I feel, has been one-sided up to date—that is I am speaking of the evidence given in Simla—but simply because this trial form of government is not considered by them to be sufficiently extensive and does not meet with their idea of complete self-government. This is not a time for personal prejudices, or personal likes or dislikes. This is not a time for petty or paltry reasoning, or for standing round and listening to rumours, or to detractions and attacks, true or otherwise. The House has before it a broad patriotic issue, and I look to it to rise to the occasion. I have seen the Reforms working here and in Delhi for four years and I have been privileged to take part in their working here and much was done in the first three years. This is an old argument, but it is a good argument for repetition. It is apt to be forgotten among the new issues that are being raised to-day. In spite of what was done during the first three years the Reforms have never been yet properly tried out, and the full powers of the Council and the Assembly have never yet been taken advantage of. As far as we are concerned, we know what we are here now for to-day. We, in this Council, should not forget that we are here to make a choice which I confidently look to the best elements of this House to make, which will be, I believe, the carrying on of the constitution as laid down until the time comes for further increases. Believe me the glories of a real and a stable swaraj can be better attained by the maintaining of the present *status quo* for the period laid down in the Act than by the changes that are now being advocated by the Swaraj party.

In passing, I would say that I have watched with a growing distaste, shared, I am sure, by all sound men who wish for a decent public life, the debasement of true public life of late in Bengal. India is a land of high traditions with its best peoples, a land of courage and honour unsurpassed in many ways, and this cheap huckstering of public life should be abandoned. We do not want to let the world believe that this is all there is in India. Whoever is responsible for it unfortunately for them, the new Swaraj party have become identified with that sort of thing. We should all be sorry to see Bengal made a shrugging among the nations of the world, and referred to with the damning smiles and shrugs with which one refers to a South American Republic. That is not, I am sure, the ambition of this Council was though it may be of the new Swaraj party. It is not to be imagined that the high-minded statesmen who felt their way during the past 20 to 25 years towards the present scheme of the trial form of government could have imagined the use that is being made of it to-day. Again, all that I would say, Sir, is to appeal to the better elements of this House to put behind them all prejudices and to face the broad issue—the constitutional issue—as to whether we are to go on in Bengal in what I believe, in spite of all the opinions that may be held by other friends, to be the very best way forward as laid down in the Reforms Act which, as far as Bengal is concerned, is to be decided here this afternoon.

[At this stage the Council was adjourned for 10 minutes.]

[After the adjournment.]

Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: This motion for the total refusal of the Ministers' salaries involves a question of great constitutional importance. Babu Akhil Chandra Datta, in moving the resolution for total refusal, has said that he does not move it with the intention of bringing the Reforms to an end but because he and his party have no confidence in the present Ministers. He has quoted previous speeches delivered in the month of March last and from those speeches he has tried to show that in March the total refusal of salaries was intended to be an expression of this House of want of confidence in the Ministers and not intended to do away with the Ministry altogether. In support of his argument he quoted the speech of a member of the Swaraj party, but Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta in moving the same resolution in identical words said that his party now put the question on the constitutional issue that diarchy is bad and it must come to an end and that this motion is an instrument whereby they want to kill it. So far as I am concerned I am no lover of diarchy and am as much opposed to it as Mr. C. R. Das and his followers are. If there is any doubt in the mind of any person as to the uselessness of this form of Government evidences recently given at Simla have removed these doubts altogether. The question, however, that we have got to consider is whether diarchy

should be killed by a reversion to the old form of Government, by giving room to Government to take over the transferred side to the reserved side or whether to go on occupying the transferred side through Ministers responsible to the Council and agitating for fresh advances. This Council passed a resolution, I believe in March last, recommending to Government that all the departments in the Provincial governments except three should be Transferred. I know not whether that resolution has been conveyed to the Secretary of State or not. But the Reforms Enquiry Committee is now sitting and is making enquiry into the matter and whether we ought to have confidence in the Reforms Enquiry Committee or not there must be divergence of opinion. But the broad question that appears to my mind is whether by refusing the salaries of Ministers we ought to give a handle to Government to take over the transferred departments. There is certainly a divergence of opinion on this question. Mr. C. R. Das and his party have openly said that they want to kill dyarchy and they do not care if Government takes them over. Mr. Chakravarti in his speech has said that they do not want that the transferred departments should be taken over by the reserved side but that this motion has been made because they have no confidence in the present Ministers. The question, to my mind, about this motion for refusal is one of practical shape. What will be the interpretation put upon it by Government or by His Excellency the Governor? The Hon'ble Mr. Donald has made it clear to-day that the passing of this motion will be interpreted by them as meaning that this Council does not want any Ministry, whether it be composed of the Hon'ble Mr. Ghuznavi or Maulvi Fazl-ul Huq or anybody else. Mr. Chakravarti in his speech has said that they have no confidence in the present Ministers. If that is so I do not want to anticipate the discussion on motion No. 24 but I believe that is the motion which will decide whether this House has confidence in the present Ministers or not. If that motion comes up for discussion, I will express my own views on the subject as to whether the present Ministry ought to continue or not and as to whether other Ministers who enjoy the confidence of the majority of the non-official members of this House should be appointed in their place. I understand Mr. Chakravarti to say that his party is prepared or at least has no objection to form a Ministry if the present Ministers resign but, as I have said, Sir, the motion No. 24 which would decide that issue is not yet before the House and I do not want to discuss it now. I myself believe that having regard to the clear interpretation expressed on behalf of Government the passing of the motion that is now before the House would be interpreted to mean that this House does not want the appointment of any Ministers whomsoever. I believe, Sir, that for them, who believe that the Ministers ought to remain and that the diarchy should be killed by other methods or means, it would not be wise to vote in favour of this motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. CHPINUDDIN: I vehemently oppose this motion for the total refusal of the Ministers' salaries and I have strong reasons for doing so. I refuse to believe that this motion has been brought forward with a view to express want of confidence in the present Ministers. If that were so, then I would have expected some such qualifying sentence at the end of the motion that we have no confidence in the present Ministers. There is another motion which is No. 24, which says that the present Ministers' salaries may be fixed at rupee one only. That is, of course, a motion for expressing no confidence in the present Ministers. But as regards this motion, it has evidently been brought forward with a view to lay the axe at the very root of that damnable thing called diarchy. Their object is clear from the very fact that not only this item of the supplementary budget but all the items of the supplementary budget have been objected to on the present occasion, as was also done on the first occasion when the original budget was put forward before the Council. On that occasion it was not only the Ministers' salaries which were refused but every item of the budget was opposed from start to finish. When the Swarajists first entered the Council they brought forward a cut and dried programme and they declared that if the Government refused to accede to their wishes, they would then oppose every item of the budget in order to bring about a dead-lock to kill diarchy once for all. With that avowed object in view they have entered the Council to wreck the diarchical form of Government. If that be the object in the present instance also, then I think it is utterly illegal, unconstitutional and *ultra vires*. Section 52 of the Government of India Act says that the Ministers will have the same salary as the Members of the Executive Council unless a lower salary is voted by the Council.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Khan Bahadur. I cannot allow you to pursue that line of argument. It is quite beside the point.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. CHPINUDDIN: The Ministers have been taken to task by my friends Messrs. Dutt and Chakravarti for not having resigned their posts as soon as their salaries were refused on the first occasion. I rather admire the wisdom of the Ministers for not having yielded to this sort of unconstitutional pressure because I hold that such a refusal of their salaries was *ultra vires* and illegal under section 52 of the Government of India Act and so they had done the right thing in not having resigned. Now, if their salaries are refused on this occasion also, what would be the result? Would dyarchy go? I think not. If His Excellency does not certify all the grants, the transferred departments will be re-transferred to the reserved side and in the words of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray the bureaucracy will go on as merrily as ever. We will not be in any way nearer the Swaraj.

Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Sir, I suffer from a great disadvantage perhaps in common with many members of this House who tried to follow my hon'ble friend, Mr. Donald, and who tried to modify their views, if possible, by listening to his arguments. Whether this be due to the fact that the mother tongue of neither of us is English or whether this be due to the fact that my friend, Mr. Donald, was rather speaking to himself for his own edification and not in a very audible voice, the fact remains that I could not clearly follow all that he said although I tried my best and strained my ears to follow him. Suffering from this disadvantage I have to proceed on lines of my own and I want to begin by saying that if to-day we were asked to vote on the clear issue, namely, that this grant was demanded for the retention of a Ministry as opposed to the retention of the present Ministers, I would have unhesitatingly voted for the grant and tried my best to induce others to vote for it. Speaking for myself, and after giving the matter my most anxious consideration, I cannot persuade myself to come to the conclusion that this vote is demanded for the retention of a Ministry. In my opinion this vote is demanded for the retention of two Ministers who have flouted this House and have flouted public opinion by retaining their office against the constitution. As a constitutionalist I take a far more serious view of the situation than even Mr. C. R. Das. I believe with the fervour of a religious faith that the future of India lies in evolution, and if evolution has to be properly worked it must be on constitutional lines. I must therefore oppose anyone who goes against the constitution even should that person be my personal friend.

There is another and a very cogent reason why I must oppose this grant. I realise, and I am sorry to admit that I realise it, that the Moderate party is certainly not in a majority in this House. Why is this so? My complaint for this state of things is not so much against the Swarajists—they have their own politics, and however much I may disagree with their politics I know what their politics is—but my complaint is against the pretenders amongst the so-called Moderates. It may surprise my European friends, both official and non-official; but it is nonetheless true that there are just two elected members in this House who belong to the Moderate organisations and who are members of this Council. One is myself and the other is Mr. J. N. Basu. I have no party bond with these pretenders who pose as Moderates. These pretenders who pose as Moderates are not really so and they have met with their deserts. How was it that during the last election in every constituency the Swarajists under Mr. C. R. Das's leadership put forward only one nominee who in many cases got through although these pretenders contested their constituencies 4 or 5 deep in spite of the advice and protest of the leaders of the true Moderate party? So long as those who really want to come within the Moderate fold do not realise that without organisation they cannot hope to take any effective

part towards carrying on responsible government, there is no hope for the Moderates. I would much rather see only one party in this House than a number of disunited parties in the garb of Moderates. I have been told that as the Ministers are Moderates for party reasons I must vote for them. I have no such bond with them. I had such a bond with Mr. S. N. Mullick who belongs to the Moderate organisations. I have no party bond with the present Ministers who do not belong to such organisations. It is the politics of the Moderates to work the constitution as it stands to its best advantage and I am here to work it—not that I love dyarchy but I would like to work it as best as it can be worked in the Council as at present constituted. I ask, Sir, the Ministers through you—are you working the constitution by trying to run it without a real party behind you? And if you have no party there can be only one answer, namely, that self-respect demands that you should not be in the place you have been asked to occupy. During the first part—for about 10 weeks—of the life of this Council, I supported the Ministers whole-heartedly but I have since changed my views and my attitude towards them because of constitutional reasons, and I can assure the House that it is the constitutional aspect of the question and the constitutional question alone that has been the deciding factor for my vote against this grant. Sir, how is it that the Moderates who hallowed the memory of great and honoured leaders like Dadabhoy Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pherojshah Mehta, Ananda Mohan Bose and other eminent leaders now no more—I do not mention any of our leaders still with us, how is it that the Moderates, who undoubtedly had a great hold over the country, have lost that hold to-day? It is because of these pretenders who claim to be Moderates, who under the Moderate garb go before the country and the people without knowledge of Moderate politics and principles, who shuffle and shift and change their views to suit the convenience of the hour. To-day in the presence of the Britishers, official and non-official, they pretend friendship with England. The very next day in the presence of the Indians they sing to a different tune. A true Moderate has no reason to be ashamed of publicly proclaiming his good-will towards England for that good-will rests on the solid foundation of his patriotism for his motherland. A true Moderate realises that if he has got to get self-government within the British Empire he must get it through evolution and it can only be by the mutual good-will of the Indians and the Englishmen and not by the good-will of England alone. It must be by the mutual good-will of both England and India. I repeat again with all the emphasis that I can command that a true Moderate will never be ashamed to proclaim that he values the good-will of England. But the pretenders would not do this as they have no fixed principles and it is these pretenders who have dragged down the good name of the whole Moderate party. My time is short and I do not like to proceed any further on the line I have taken. My next point is that if this grant

be refused there is no reason why the present constitution should come to an end. If the authorities become dissatisfied, and they act in a huff because the salaries of the present Ministers have been refused then the responsibility for breaking the constitution will be the responsibility of the authorities and not of the House. The Swaraj party are certainly not by themselves in a majority and if the Independents and others have combined with them to-day in throwing out the present demand it is only because Government have not cared to listen to their advice. If Government care to listen to the advice of those who do not belong to the Swaraj party then I say that in the course of the next two or three months a Ministry can be formed. Although I am not willing to accept office as Minister for the simple reason that I realise that my party is in a minority in the House, but if Government would listen and take the advice of those who are not Swarajists I undertake to form a more stable Ministry—not a volatile Ministry like this who win one day by one vote and lose on another day say by two votes. In my opinion it is far better that during the next two or three months the Transferred departments should be administered in a straightforward way by men like Mr. Swan, Mr. Dutta and Mr. Goode than that these departments should be administered by persons who claim to be Ministers but who have no majority at their back. I would conclude by making one last appeal to Mr. Fazl-ul Huq and Mr. Ghuznavi. I have known Mr. Huq for nearly 30 years and Mr. Ghuznavi for many years although not so long. My personal appeal to them is “Resign and end this humiliation.”

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I rise not to make any speech with reference to the question now before the House but only to say a few words by way of personal explanation. A certain letter has been published to-day in *Forward* and is being circulated to the members of the Legislative Council with what object I do not know.

Mr. BYOMKES CHAKRAVARTI: Is he in order?

Mr. PRESIDENT: He is making a personal explanation.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: He is making a reference to a newspaper.

Mr. C. R. DAS: May I point out that no speaker has referred to it?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, but it is always a recognised rule that any member is entitled to make a personal explanation with regard to any particular matter.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I wish my friends had only listened to me.

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: Give the explanation to the Court.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: As regards this letter, Sir, I make this statement publicly that I never wrote any such letter, that the letter is not genuine and that it appears to be an impudent forgery.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: What letter is he referring to?

Mr. PRESIDENT: He has distinctly stated what it was. I cannot permit these interruptions.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I heard some three or four days ago from a friend of mine—a member of this Council mentioned to me that such a letter was in circulation. I will not mention his name. I told him that I never wrote such a letter. At that time he told me that that letter was purported to have been written to a certain Rai Bahadur at Krishnagar. Somehow or other I got a copy of that letter and I found that letter purports to have been addressed to a gentleman who does not at all exist. I appeal to Mr. C. R. Das, who is the editor of the paper in which the letter has been published, to kindly let me know or to make public the name of the addressee of the letter, so that the whole world would know that this letter was not genuine. If he has any objection to publish the name, I ask him to supply the name either to Mr. Donald or to His Excellency, so that enquiries may be made if necessary, and an enquiry will show what a glaring forgery has been perpetrated. As regards the point at issue I do not want to say anything except that so far as diarchy is concerned, I wish with all my heart that it comes to an end to-day.

Mr. C. R. DAS: I did not know before I came here and before my friend Mr. Fazl-ul Huq got up to speak that I should have to say anything about myself as the editor of a paper, but I must obey the President's ruling. All that I desire to say is that I repeat in this House that that signature is the signature of Mr. Fazl-ul Huq. If he wants information and further particulars, anywhere he takes me to I shall prove what I say. This is not the place for me to do so, but if he institutes any case or takes me to any court, I shall prove to the satisfaction of every honest and impartial judge that that signature is his signature.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That incident is closed.

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: May I rise to a point of order, Sir? The time allotted, viz., 1½ hours, has been over long ago.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand your point of order. The time allotted is 1½ hours and should be over at 5-14 but I have excluded from this the time which you and your co-religionists insisted on having for saying your prayers. I understand that you now make a grievance of that.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I rise to oppose this resolution. My friend in the Swarajist camp have moved this resolution and their only aim is to end diarchy. Sir, this step is resented to by the people who have been trying their best so long to get more and more Reforms so that they could, within as short a time as possible, get self-government within the Empire. Now that they have got the Reforms it has somehow or other got into the heads of the Swarajist party to end them. It seems to me that they think that by ending diarchy they will get something higher than this. Was not Swaraj offered within six months—was it not offered within a year? But Swaraj never came at all. Is this the only way of compelling Government to come forward with further instalments of Reforms. I think not. On the other hand it seems to me to be quite plain and consistent with justice and equity that we should try our best to work the Reforms as they are at present and in the meantime impress upon the Government that we are quite fit to have more not after 10 years but within that time. Sir, it seems to be the duty of every one who likes ordered progress to take this course, and not to try to attain freedom by a magic wand. My remarks are not meant for those who do not want ordered progress. Let us consider. . . .

Mr. PRESIDENT: Will you please resume your seat? The time allotted is over and I will now put motion No. 2.

The motion of Babu Akhil Chandra Datta was then put and a division taken.

After Maulvi Md. Abdul Jabbar Pahlowan had returned from the lobby the Hon'ble the President before announcing the result of the division addressed him and said, "Maulvi Abdul Jabbar Pahlowan, your conduct during division time has been most disorderly and if you repeat it again I shall have to suspend you from attendance for the rest of the session."

Mr. PRESIDENT: I desire to give a warning to visitors in the galleries that if the slightest demonstration occurs on the announcement of the result of the figures of the division I shall have both the upper and lower galleries immediately cleared.

The result of the division was then declared as follows :

AYES.

Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Zannoor.
Ali, Mr. Altaf.
Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra.
Baksh, Maulvi Kader.
Banerjee, Dr. Pramathanath.
Banerjee, Babu Satya Kishore.
Banerjee, Mr. A. C.
Basu, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.
Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes.

Chakravorti, Babu Jogindra Chandra.
Chakravorty, Babu Sudarsan.
Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq.
Chaudhury, Maulvi Salyed Abdur Rob.
Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra.
Das, Dr. Mohini Mohen.
Das, Mr. C. R.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra.

Dey, Babu Surendra Prosad.
 Gafer, Maulvi Abdul.
 Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath.
 Halder, Mr. S. N.
 Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
 Hoque, Maulvi Sayedal.
 Hossain, Maulvi Wahed.
 Joarder, Maulvi Aftab Hossain.
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.
 Khan, Maulvi Abdur Raschid.
 Khan, Maulvi Amanat.
 Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin.
 Law, Raja Reshee Case.
 Mahammad, Maulvi Basar.
 Maitly, Babu Mahendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Satyendra Chandra.
 Mitter, Sir Provash Chunder.
 Mukerjee, Babu Taraknath.
 Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra.
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
 Neogi, Babu Manmohon.
 Quader, Maulvi Abdul.
 Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.

Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra.
 Ray, Babu Anilbaran.
 Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
 Ray, Kumar Shib Shekharaswar.
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.
 Roy, Babu Sateowripati.
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.
 Roy, Mr. D. N.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.
 Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar.
 Sarkar, Maulvi Allah Buksh.
 Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan.
 Sasmal, Mr. B. N.
 Sen, Mr. N. C.
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. N.
 Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra.
 Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
 Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
 Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin.
 Yasin, Maulvi Muhammad.

NOES.

Addams-Williams, Mr. C.
 Ahmed, Maulvi Tayebuddin.
 Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
 Ali, Maulvi Sayyed Sultan.
 Band, Mr. R. N.
 Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
 Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
 Barton, Mr. H.
 Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
 Beg, Khan Bahadur Mirza Shuja'at Ali.
 Carey, Sir Willoughby.
 Cholinuddin, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md.
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim.
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.
 Cooper, Mr. C. G.
 Corcoran, Mr. B. J.
 Currie, Mr. W. C.
 Das, Babu Charu Chandra.
 Daud, Mr. M.
 Dey, Mr. C. G.
 Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
 Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
 Dutt, Mr. C. S.
 Eddis, Mr. B. E. G.
 Emerson, the Hon'ble Mr. T.
 Farequi, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu
 Ahmed Khan.
 Godfrey, Sir George.
 Goenka, Babu Badridas.
 Goode, Mr. S. W.
 Gordon, Mr. A. D.
 Guha, Mr. P. N.

Haq, Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul.
 Heard, Major General R.
 Hossain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharruf.
 Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
 Huq, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazlul.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 James, Mr. A. K.
 Khaitan, Babu Debi Prosad.
 Lal Mahammad, Hajl.
 Liddell, Mr. H. C.
 Marr, Mr. A.
 Masih, Mr. Syed M.
 Meberly, Mr. A. N.
 Moreno, Dr. H. W. B.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mukerji, Mr. S. C.
 Nazimuddin, Khaje.
 Oaten, Mr. E. F.
 Pahlawan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
 Phelps, Mr. T. J.
 Phillip, Mr. J. Y.
 Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
 Rahman, Mr. A. F.
 Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur
 Keshavnish Chandra.
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. G.
 Roy, Mr. S. N.
 Roy, Raja Maniloli Singh.
 Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.
 Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
 Travers, Mr. W. L.
 Villiers, Mr. Edward.
 Woodhead, Mr. J. A.

The Ayes being 68 and the Noes 66 the motion was carried.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald was not put as it was covered by the foregoing decision of the Council.

The following motions were not put as they were also covered by the foregoing decision of the Council:—

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY and Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,59,999.”

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand of Rs. 1,60,000 for expenditure under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,59,997.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,45,000.”

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,42,000.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,40,000.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,30,000.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,20,000.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head ‘22.—General Administration (Transferred)’ on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,10,000.”

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head '22.—General Administration (Transferred)' on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head '22.—General Administration (Transferred)' on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 97,000."

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head '22.—General Administration (Transferred)' on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 88,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head '22.—General Administration' on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 76,000 being the full pay of the remaining third Minister and part pay of the existing Ministers."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head '22.—General Administration' on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Rs. 55,000."

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: "That the demand for Rs. 1,60,000 under the head '22.—General Administration (Transferred)' on account of the salaries of the Ministers, be reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 4,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—General Administration (Transferred)" on account of the leave allowance of the Registrar, Local Self-Government Department.

The following motions were called but not moved:—

Mr. D. N. ROY, Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, and Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: "That the demand of Rs. 4,500 for expenditure under the head '22.—General Administration (Transferred)' on account of the leave allowance of the Registrar, Local Self-Government Department, be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 4,500 under the head '22.—General Administration' for leave allowance of the Registrar, Local Self-Government Department, be reduced by Rs. 3,500."

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald was then put and agreed to.

30.—Scientific Departments (Reserved).

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: I move that a sum of Rs. 1,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "30.—Scientific Departments (Reserved)" on account of grant to the Varendra Research Society.

The following motion was called but not moved:—

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: "That the demand for Rs. 1,500 under the head '30.—Scientific Departments (Reserved)' on account of grant to the Varendra Research Society, be refused."

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson was then put and agreed to.

31.—Education (Transferred).

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: As the result of the division on the question of the Ministers' salaries it is evident that we cannot long continue in office, and it is my duty as the spokesman of the departments which have been in my charge that my last act as Minister should be to attempt to secure justice for the officers who have served the Education and Medical Departments. I therefore beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,35,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "31.—Education (Transferred)" on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department.

I may briefly state that this sum was rejected by the Council on the last occasion and I now submit it for re-consideration and I hope that the demand will be granted.

The following motions were called but not moved:—

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, and Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: "That the demand of Rs. 6,35,400 for expenditure under the head '31.—Education (Transferred)' on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department, be refused."

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: "That the demand of Rs. 6,35,400 for expenditure under the head '31.—Education (Transferred)' on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department, be reduced by Rs. 4,35,400."

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, and Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 6,35,400 under the head '31.—Education (Transferred)' on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department, be reduced by Re. 1."

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: I only want to say one or two words in connection with this demand. This demand was refused by the Council on the last occasion when it was presented before them. Since then petitions have been received from many members of the Council including a number of those who were absent from the division and also from those who voted against the reduction of the demand, that the demand should be once more submitted to the Council. But, Sir, my information in this connection is that the interval was spent in activities for the purpose of securing these petitions. I do not propose to oppose the motion now. I am not going to vote for it either. I only want to hear from the Minister in charge whether it is not a fact that a great deal of energy was expended for the purpose of securing these petitions from the members of the Legislative Council, on behalf of the officers.

Babu BEJOY KRISHNA BOSE: On the last occasion when this demand for grant was made in the Council Babu Monmohan Neogi moved an amendment that this grant should be refused and no speeches had been made and the grant was refused. After the March session of the Council was over, I had occasion to go through the last Quinquennial report of the Education Department published under the auspices of the Government of Bengal and I have collected facts and figures from that report which justify our conduct as on the last occasion; but unfortunately I find the temper of the House now is not such as to consider the question on its merits. Therefore I do not like to inflict a speech, although I am prepared with facts and figures for my purpose. It is useless now to move the House for a division and therefore I am content to take my seat by repeating that I am against the demand and oppose it.

The motion of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I beg to withdraw the following motion standing in my name:—

“That a sum of Rs. 3,17,750 be granted for expenditure under the head ‘31.—Education (Transferred)’ on account of the pay of inspecting officers of the Education Department.”

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motions were not put:—

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: “That the demand for Rs. 3,17,750 under the head ‘31.—Education (Transferred)’ on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department, be refused.”

Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: "That the demand for Rs. 3,17,750 under the head '31.—Education (Transferred)' on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department, be reduced by Rs. 1,17,750."

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY and Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 3,17,750 under the head '31.—Education (Transferred)' on account of the pay of Inspecting Officers of the Education Department, be reduced by Re. 1."

32.—Medical—Medical Establishment.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,88,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical—Medical Establishment."

The following motions were called but not moved:—

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: "That the demand for Rs. 5,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 5,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be reduced by Rs. 2,94,000."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 5,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 5,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be reduced by Re. 1."

The motion of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I beg to withdraw the following motion standing in my name:—

"That a sum of Rs. 2,88,000 be granted for expenditure under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment.'"

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motions were not put:—

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, and Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: "That the demand of Rs. 2,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be reduced by Rs. 88,000."

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,88,000 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment,' be reduced by Re. 1."

25.—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I beg to withdraw the following motion standing in my name:—

"That a sum of Rs. 1,99,230 be granted for expenditure under the head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements' on account of the pay of Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of Jails."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motions were not put:—

Mr. D. N. ROY, Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI, Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, and Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: "That the demand for Rs. 1,99,230 for expenditure under the head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements' on account of the pay of Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of Jails, be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,99,230 under the head '25.—Jails and Convict Settlements' on account of the pay of Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of Jails, be reduced by Rs. 1,20,000."

26.—Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I beg to withdraw the following motion standing in my name:—

"That a sum of Rs. 2,706 be granted for expenditure under the head '26.—Police—Presidency Police—Hospital Charges' for the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motions were not put:—

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,706

under the head '26.—Police—Presidency Police—Hospital Charges' for the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,706 under the head '26.—Police—Presidency Police—Hospital Charges' for the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be reduced by Rs. 2,500."

The following motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That a sum of Rs. 5,292 be granted for expenditure under the head '26.—Police—District Police—Hospital Charges' for the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons."

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motions were not put:—

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, and Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 5,292 under the head '26.—Police—District Police—Hospital Charges' for the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 5,292 under the head '26.—Police—District Police—Hospital Charges' for the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

32.—Medical.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ to move that a sum of Rs. 35,640 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical—Medical Establishment" for the pay of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons appointed at certain district headquarters stations and of allowances of Military Medical Officers in charge of the Civil Stations at Barrackpore and Dum Dum.

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motions were not put:—

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 35,640 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment' for the pay of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons appointed at certain district headquarters stations and of allowances of Military Medical Officers in charge of the Civil Stations at Barrackpore and Dum Dum, be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 35,640 under the head '32.—Medical Establishment' for the pay of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons appointed at certain district headquarters stations and of allowances of Military Medical Officers in charge of the Civil Stations at Barrackpore and Dum Dum, be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The following motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That a sum of Rs. 10,500 be granted for expenditure under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment' for the free supply of medicines to Government servants outside Calcutta."

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motion was not put:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ, Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 10,500 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Establishment' for the free supply of medicines to Government servants outside Calcutta, be refused."

The following motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was, by leave of the Council withdrawn:—

"That a sum of Rs. 40,230 be granted for expenditure under the head '32.—Medical—Hospital and Dispensaries' for the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons."

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motion was not put:—

Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: "That the demand for Rs. 40,230 under the head '32.—Medical Hospitals and Dispensaries' for the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be refused."

The following motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That a sum of Rs. 23,598 be granted for expenditure under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Schools and Colleges' on account of the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons."

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motion was not put:—

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 23,598 under the head '32.—Medical—Medical Schools and Colleges' on account of the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be refused."

The following motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

“ That a sum of Rs. 756 be granted for expenditure under the head ‘ 32.—Medical—Lunatic Asylum ’ on account of the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.”

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motion was not put:—

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, and Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: “ That the demand for Rs. 756 under the head ‘ 32.—Medical—Lunatic Asylum ’ on account of the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be refused.”

The following motion standing in the name of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

“ That a sum of Rs. 1,950 be granted for expenditure under the head ‘ 32.—Medical—Chemical Examiner ’ on account of the pay of Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.”

The original demand having been withdrawn the following motion was not put:—

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: “ That the demand for Rs. 1,950 under the head ‘ 32.—Medical—Chemical Examiner ’ on account of the pay of the Reserve Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, be refused.”

31.—Education (Transferred).

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I move that a sum of Rs. 2,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head “ 31.—Education (Transferred) ” to meet the deficit of the Calcutta University.

The following motion standing in the name of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta was called but not moved:—

“ That the demand for Rs. 2,30,000 under the head ‘ 31.—Education (Transferred) ’ to meet the deficit of the Calcutta University be refused.”

The motion of the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq was then put and agreed to.

33.—Public Health (Transferred).

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZNAVI: I move that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be voted under the head " 33.—Public Health " to assist in the formation of village anti-malarial societies on a co-operative basis.

Mr. D. N. ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 50,000 under the head " 33.—Public Health " to assist in the formation of village anti-malarial societies on a co-operative basis, be refused."

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: In the printed memorandum circulated over the signature of Mr. Goode, we find the following sentence in the middle of the second paragraph: " The primary aim of each village society is the eradication or amelioration of malaria." I should like to know what is meant by the words " amelioration of malaria." Is it the idea of the Secretary that Mr. Malaria should prosper? I fail to understand.

Mr. S. W. GOODE: Or a point of personal explanation, Sir, I think I am to blame for it.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: I am pained to find that they do not say what they mean and do not mean what they say.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Human beings are liable to err, Mr. Banerjee. Sometimes members of Council also err, and members of the Bar also.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: But not the Heaven-born members of the Indian Civil Service, Sir.

Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Mr. Banerjee is entitled to some humour also.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The present item is one, Sir, which I consider to be an absolute waste of money. There are very few co-operative associations at the present moment in Bengal and those that are in existence practically do very little work. The central co-operative anti-malarial society which is the only organisation in Bengal, attempting to work on co-operative lines, had to give up its co-operative method in its anti-kala-azar projects and had to resort to free treatment. The obvious reason for this is that the people of Bengal are too poor to be able to subscribe anything to such projects. There are 28 districts in Bengal but this society carries on its operations only in 10 districts of which the districts of Faridpur, Malda and Bankura have only one centre; Jessore, Nadia and Khulna have only three small centres. So, practically the work is confined to the 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, and Burdwan. The district of Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Tippera, Mymensingh and Chittagong, where malaria is most rampant, are not attended to.

As regards the membership, the membership of the biggest centre, Sainpalla, is only 100. Next comes Harinab with 70 members, but many associations have only 10 to 15 members. Taking 50 to be a fair average, this measure can be useful to only about 5,000 souls while the mortality index of the province is nearly 12 lakhs.

The non-co-operative free treatment centres such as those established by the Bengal Health Association at their Bishnupur centre have, say as many as 400 to 500 patients; and it is so only for this reason, that the people have not to pay anything for being cured. And therefore I should like to oppose this demand for grant.

The motion of Mr. D. N Roy was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker was called but not moved:—

“ That the demand for Rs. 50,000 under the head ‘ 33.—Public Health (Transferred)’ to assist in the formation of village anti-malarial societies on a co-operative basis, be reduced by Re. 1.”

The motion of the Hon’ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi was then put and agreed to.

37.—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon’ble Mr. T. EMERSON: I move that a sum of Rs. 10,000 be voted under the head “ 37.—Miscellaneous Departments ” for expenditure in connection with the British Empire Exhibition.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 10,000 under the head “ 37.—Miscellaneous Departments ” for expenditure in connection with the British Empire Exhibition, be refused.,

He spoke in the vernacular in support of his motion.

Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY: I beg to support the motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq.

In doing so I must express my strongest conviction that the taxpayers do not and will not derive from this exhibition any benefit by this contribution and that it is a sheer waste of public money.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move the same motion on the same old ground on which I proposed the rejection of similar demands in the past, that is, mainly on the ground that so long as the Kenya decision is not reversed and so long as there is no equality of status amongst the citizens of the British Empire we have no business to associate ourselves with the Empire Exhibition. Our self-respect demands that we should dissociate ourselves from the Empire Exhibition. Segregation at one place and association at another go ill

together and I believe that nothing, not even the postponement of the Kenya Ordinances, can induce us to take part in the British Empire Exhibition. It is not consistent with the self-respect of the nation, and our national self-respect demands that we should throw out this demand altogether.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Sir, this demand seems to me to be a perpetual one. Last year, we granted quite a large sum of money for the British Empire Exhibition. Then we granted a certain sum of money as a supplementary grant. This year in the budget we passed several grants under several heads—under the head “Miscellaneous,” under “Industries,” and under “Expenditure in England.” And now we are again called upon to make a further grant. I do not know when these demands are going to cease.

I oppose the present demand on both economic and political grounds. Economically, India is not likely to gain anything from the British Empire Exhibition. India wants a large field for her exports, and she does not want her choice of imports to be limited. But the idea behind this Exhibition is that the British Empire should be self-sufficing. We do not stand to gain anything by that, and therefore I oppose the demand.

Under the present circumstances any inter-Imperial economic arrangement is bound to perpetuate our economic subjection.

I object also to this demand on political grounds. We are asked to support the Empire. But whose Empire is this we are called upon to support? And what is our position in the Empire? Is it one of honour and dignity, or of shame and humiliation? We are often told that we are citizens of the Empire. I will quote the opinion of a Colonial paper which says:—

In mind, and in his habits of life, and in every element of social and political aim, the Indian is incurably an alien from the firmly based and hopefully developing civilization of Africa, whether in the Union or elsewhere.

This is our position,—we are hopeless aliens in the Empire. And what is our crime? Our crime is that of colour. The colour question has a history behind it. For a long time we had been told that we were blacks. But when the great European war commenced, our colour suddenly changed, and we were told on the highest authority that our colour was not black but sun-dried brown. With the cessation of hostilities our colour has changed and to-day we are once more black, as black as ever, if not blacker than before. Our national self-respect demands that we should refuse this demand.

Mr. G. S. DUTT: On behalf of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries I should like to explain the object of this demand, although it has been moved by the Hon'ble Finance Member. I will only say a few words.

Two objections have been taken, one on political grounds and the other on economic grounds. With regard to the political ground, namely, as to whether the national self-respect of India is consistent with the participation of India in the British Empire Exhibition, I have to say very little. This matter was debated threadbare in this Council when the question of Bengal's participation in the Exhibition was first approved in March last and the Council then decided that Bengal should participate. It would therefore be inconsistent with the dignity of Bengal to make that participation anything but worthy of Bengal. Therefore, on political grounds, I think this Council should support the participation.

Secondly, on economic grounds, with great respect to Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea whose knowledge of economics is above question, I say this that Bengal's participation in the exhibition will not go in vain, as our manufacturers are getting good advertisement in the world's market.

They are securing a larger market, and this very demand shows that they are getting a larger market. I shall just explain why we want this money. The manufactures are being sold out so rapidly that the Commissioner for Bengal and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies constantly require funds to replace the goods that are being sold out rapidly and it is for that reason that money is wanted to purchase the manufactured articles and replenish the stocks sold; this is the justification for this demand. This money is required to send more manufactures to be sold there. This money is merely an advance which will be adjusted when the sale proceeds are credited under the proper heads. Therefore I have no doubt that my friend will think it over and allow this very small sum in view of its economic importance to Bengal.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Tayebuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Zannoor.
Ali, Maulvi Sayyed Sultan.
Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra.
Baksh, Maulvi Kader.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Banerjee, Babu Satya Kishore.
Banerjee, Mr. A. C.
Basu, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.
Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes.
Chakravorty, Babu Jogindra Chandra.
Chakraverty, Babu Sudarsan.
Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.

Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Haq.
Chaudhury, Maulvi Saiyed Abdur Rob.
Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra.
Das, Dr. Mohini Mohon.
Das, Mr. C. R.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra.
Day, Babu Boroda Prosad.
Gafur, Maulvi Abdul.
Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Halder, Mr. S. N.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hoque, Maulvi Sayedal.
Hossain, Maulvi Wahed.
Joardar, Maulvi Aftab Hossain.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.

Khan, Maulvi Abdur Raschid.
 Khan, Maulvi Amanat.
 Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin.
 Muhammad, Maulvi Basar.
 Maitty, Babu Mahendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Satyendra Chandra.
 Mukerjee, Babu Taraknath.
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
 Neogi, Babu Manmohan.
 Quader, Maulvi Abdul.
 Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
 Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra.
 Ray, Babu Anilbaran.
 Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
 Ray, Kumar Shih Shekhareswar.

Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.
 Roy, Babu Sateowripati.
 Roy, Dr. Siddhan Chandra.
 Roy, Mr. D. N.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.
 Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar.
 Sarkar, Maulvi Allah Buksh.
 Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan.
 Sasmal, Mr. S. N.
 Sen, Mr. N. O.
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.
 Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
 Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
 Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin.
 Yasin, Maulvi Muhammad.

NOES.

Addams-Williams, Mr. C.
 Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
 Band, Mr. R. N.
 Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
 Barma, Rai Sahib Panohanan.
 Barton, Mr. H.
 Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
 Carey, Sir Willoughby.
 Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazial Karim.
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.
 Cooper, Mr. C. G.
 Corcoran, Mr. B. J.
 Currie, Mr. W. C.
 Das, Babu Charu Chandra.
 Dey, Mr. G. G.
 Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
 Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
 Dutt, Mr. G. S.
 Eddis, Mr. B. E. G.
 Emerson, the Hon'ble Mr. T.
 Farouqi, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan.
 Godfrey, Sir George.
 Goenka, Babu Badridas.
 Goode, Mr. S. W.
 Gordon, Mr. A. D.

Heard, Major General R.
 Huq, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazlul.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jameson, Mr. A. K.
 Law, Raja Reshee Cass.
 Liddell, Mr. H. C.
 Marr, Mr. A.
 Masih, Mr. Syed M.
 Mitter, Sir Prevaash Chunder.
 Moberly, Mr. A. N.
 Moreno, Dr. H. W. B.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mukerji, Mr. S. C.
 Nazimuddin, Khaja.
 Oaten, Mr. E. F.
 Pahlawan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
 Phelps, Mr. T. J.
 Philip, Mr. J. Y.
 Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abdur.
 Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan.
 Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshausnish Chandra.
 Roy, Mr. S. N.
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.
 Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
 Travers, Mr. W. L.
 Villiers, Mr. Edward.
 Woodhead, Mr. J. A.

The Ayes being 65 and the Noes 54, the motion was carried.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson was not put as it was covered by the foregoing decision of the Council.

41.—Civil Works.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:
 I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,65,472 be granted for expenditure under the head "41.—Civil Works" for the Calcutta Police Building Scheme.

The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department will explain the reasons for the demand.

[At this stage the Council adjourned for 15 minutes.]

[After the adjournment.] .

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: This motion refers to the housing accommodation of the police in Calcutta. At the present moment we have the police accommodated in rented houses, and at the present time in Calcutta and the suburbs we are paying rent of about 4½ lakhs a year for all our officers and men. That is the position and it is becoming worse every year, because having no Rent Act every time the lease of a house expires, up goes the rent, and if the rent is going to increase in this way, police expenditure is going to increase yearly in proportion. From the point of view of economy alone it would be much better if we had our own buildings.

In this scheme we are dealing only with Calcutta, inside the Calcutta area itself, leaving the suburbs which will form a separate issue later on. Meanwhile we are dealing with the inner urban area. We circulated an elaborate memorandum in July which was circulated again the other day in which this scheme was explained in detail. The buildings which we have rented are very unsuitable, and in some places, very unhealthy and with insufficient accommodation. Another object of the scheme is to concentrate the forces; in many cases, at present, we find the force most inconveniently scattered and difficult to be called out at any time. For instance, in Shampukur the police-station is described as "very unhealthy, unsuitable and with insufficient accommodation." "Two officers' families in succession got phthisis." The Jorasanko police-station is "unsuitable as there is no accommodation for constables." This scheme is intended to provide suitable buildings which will be our own property and by that arrangement we will save money in rents. Working on the capital cost of the buildings, we are at present paying more than 10 per cent. in rent. It was recognised in the last budget debate, in fact, I think it was stated on the motion of Kumar Shib Shekharewar Ray that it would be a saving if we had our own buildings. The scheme put before the Council amounts to roughly 16½ lakhs; we propose to have 15 buildings in all, which will effect a saving of about Rs. 1,44,000, the rents at present amount to Rs. 1,50,000 per annum. In the memorandum circulated, it was shown how easy it would be to effect a saving if we have our own buildings. On the top of this, if we place the natural tendency of the landlord to increase the rent every time he gets a chance, I think the Council will recognise that it is a good proposition.

The next question is how we should carry out the scheme. There are two ways: the first that naturally comes to the minds of men who have been doing public work is to borrow the money and put up the

buildings. By borrowing the money the amount saved in rent would pay for the loan. That is not my opinion as to the best method of financing the scheme; it may be a very good way of working in some respects, but I do not believe myself in spending borrowed money on what is a non-productive work. If we have money available, why not use it and avoid borrowing? It will be cheaper in the end. I told the Council last February during the budget discussion that out of our balances we had earmarked 14 lakhs towards this scheme. We have got 14 lakhs; we could provide that money from our balances, and if we did that, we could at once set free the amount of rent we are now paying, and those who have read the memorandum will see, that if we can put up these buildings from our balances, we shall be able to place at the disposal of the transferred departments $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees annually for expenditure that the transferred departments may decide upon. The difference between a loan and the utilisation of money in our hands may be illustrated in the following way. I have at my credit somewhere about half a lakh of rupees for which I am getting no interest; I am living in a very bad house and paying very heavy rent; the landlord wants to increase that rent. I do not like this, and I think it would be better for me if I built a house for myself and saved the money which I pay in rent. I have also a dispensary which I am maintaining. It requires more money to keep it going. But my income is limited and I cannot afford to contribute any more towards its annual upkeep. I could do so if I were relieved of the charges for rent for the house I am occupying. If I borrow money to build my house the money I am paying in rent will have to go towards paying interest and repaying the loan. This then leaves me unable to give further assistance to the dispensary. But if I utilise part of my Rs. 50,000 towards building, I am relieved of the payment of rent and I can utilise that sum towards my dispensary. That is the position I put before the Council in regard to the loan. If we get our buildings out of our balances, which do not bring in any interest, we can utilise the Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in improving dispensaries, waterways, or whatever may be the needs of the transferred departments. For that reason I prefer drawing on our balances. It may be said in that connection that we should utilise the balances for the needs of the transferred departments. My answer to that is that the transferred departments require money of a recurring character, they want money which they can spend from year to year. Until we get more recurring money for the transferred departments, we cannot expect to get any improvements. For that reason I prefer to utilise the balances in order to find recurring money for the transferred departments. As I have said, it is economical and worth while to save money on this. There is another point. If we borrow we have to do so at a high rate of interest these days; but we can carry out the scheme much cheaper by utilising the balances. I may repeat that the buildings in which the police are located are very unsuitable, the force is scattered.

discipline cannot be maintained properly. One great advantage we have at the present moment is that we can push forward with the scheme, as we can get assistance from the Improvement Trust—they are offering us open lands for the various thanas on which we can now build at a much cheaper rate than put up buildings later on at much greater expense.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,65,472 under the head “41.—Civil Works” for the Calcutta Police Building Scheme, be refused.

In moving my amendment I invite the House to judge it on its merits alone and not to make it a party question. I hope that members have carefully gone through the cleverly written statement which has been circulated to us by the Political Department. I am also glad that the Hon'ble Mr. Donald has taken trouble to explain the scheme just now. Permit me, Sir, first of all to express my admiration of the most skilful ingenuity displayed by our ex-Finance Member, who is now in charge of the police, in presenting the financial aspect of the scheme. I frankly admit, Sir, that by his alluring proposals of placing Rs. 1,25,000 at the disposal of the transferred departments from next year, he has almost succeeded in diverting the attention of the unsophisticated members from the most shameful breaches—if I may be permitted to say—of promise which the scheme involves. And Sir, as an example of playing the generous while perpetuating a grave act of injustice on the tax-payers of Bengal, it is hard to beat his scheme.

Now Sir, what are the facts? No one disputes that the police force is housed in insanitary buildings and that at a huge recurring cost in rents, etc., not only in Calcutta but throughout Bengal. It was therefore proposed at one time, if I remember aright, to go in for a loan of about a crore of rupees and solve the housing problem once for all. Authorities, beginning from the head of the administration, have repeatedly advocated the loan policy; and even so late as during the last budget debate the then Member in charge, in reply to a protest against spending huge amounts from current revenues on police buildings, had assured the House that he would soon submit a proposal for a loan for this purpose. But in spite of these assurances the Government have annually spent lakhs and lakhs of rupees from the current revenue on the police housing scheme. Even when strict economy was observed in all departmental expenses, when the transferred departments were almost made to starve for want of funds, we were made to vote huge amounts for police buildings annually. Now, on the top of these we are asked to utilise our balance for more police buildings—a balance, which let me submit, Sir, has been accumulated mostly by cutting down the grants of the transferred departments. I ask, Sir, is this fair? Is this just? Sir, when new taxations were imposed on us, we were given to understand with all the eloquence of Sir Surendra

Nath Banerjee, with all the sweet reasonableness of Sir P. C. Mitter and with all the dialectic ingenuity of Sir John Kerr that all surplus income accruing from the taxes after meeting the unavoidable current expenditure, would be made available for the expansion of the activities of the transferred departments by providing a sinking fund for loans that were to be incurred for the purpose. Where are those promises now? What do we find in their stead?—a proposal to eat up the balance by constructing more police buildings. The consistency of an officialised Government is really marvellous! Sir, from the statements made in the note supplied to us, I find that the scheme involves an expenditure of about Rs. 14 lakhs, which it is alleged would result in an annual saving of about Rs. 1½ lakhs. It is said, Sir, that if we were to raise a loan for the amount, we would not get the benefit of the saving for 30 years. I admit, Sir, that I entirely fail to understand the meaning of this statement. Is it meant that the repayment of a loan of Rs. 14 lakhs, spread over 30 years, would cost us Rs. 45 lakhs! It appears to be absurd on the face of it; we who are not financial prodigies, would be much obliged to the Hon'ble Member if he would kindly explain to the House his basis of calculation. But whatever might be the system of repayment, there are at least no two opinions about the fact that the saving of the police department in the matter of rents would be sufficient to repay the loan. In the circumstances, my position is this that the Government has no justification to go back upon its promise regarding the utilisation of the balance which has been accumulated as a result of taxation as also of a ruthless retrenchment in the transferred departments. If the words of former Members and Ministers were worth anything, the entire balance should be made available for the transferred departments. If the fine sense of economies of the Finance *cum* Political Member stands in the way of utilising this in any expenditure of a recurring nature, I maintain that there are lots of work of a non-recurring type in the transferred departments to which this balance should be applied at once. As for example, grants for digging tanks and sinking wells in localities where there is an urgent necessity of such works should be treated as non-recurring expenditure and this balance should be made available for this purpose at once.

In conclusion, Sir, I would beg of the House not to be lured by the bait of Rs. 1,25,000 to be paid from the balance to the transferred departments for two years for the entire balance really belongs to the transferred departments. As for schemes requiring recurring expenditure, I might point out to the House that the transferred departments are as much entitled to draw upon the current revenue as the reserved departments provided we have strong Ministers, and if expansion be possible in the reserved side, it would be equally possible in the transferred side even without entering into a dishonourable bargain—I should say on the matter as suggested in the present scheme. I oppose the

demand and request the House not to make a party question of it but to throw it out on account of the unfairness and injustice that this diversion of the balances would entail on the nation-building departments.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: After the elaborate criticism of my friend, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, of the proposed police building scheme, I propose to be as brief as possible in my remarks. Full ten pages of foolscap, Sir, have been devoted to make out a case for the expenditure of 17½ lakhs of rupees for these buildings from the provincial surplus. What has necessitated such a long memorandum and an equally long speech from the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department? It is perhaps known to some old members of this Council that sometime back after the publication of the report of the Retrenchment Committee, Government—I mean the then Member in charge of the Police Department—assured this House that the police buildings would be financed out of a big loan project. But the Government now sees that it is invidious to start loans simply for expenditure in the reserved departments and therefore an apparently strong case has got to be made out for expenditure out of the revenue account. The long and short of the whole memorandum is that if Rs. 17½ lakhs be spent on police buildings, the saving effected would come up to Rs. 1½ lakhs. I think the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department has erred in estimating the savings, for nowhere in the memorandum it is said how these buildings after completion will be maintained and what will be the maintenance charges; and if the maintenance charges are deducted from the estimated savings I think the real saving cannot be more than the yield of Rs. 17½ lakhs at 6 per cent. Why then do not resort to loans: why then go back upon the assurance?—that is the first question and the Hon'ble Member now in charge of the Police Department has got to explain that.

Then, Sir, much has been made of the argument that it is not sound policy to resort to loans on works if they can be financed from ordinary revenue. The whole drift of the note is that this expenditure will be on non-productive works but will yield us a saving of Rs. 1½ lakhs. We therefore see, Sir, that money spent on brick and mortar for the Police Department is productive, while money spent on brick and mortar, say, for the Education Department—for the transferred departments—will be unproductive. If the Rs. 17½ lakhs had gone to the Education Department as building grants, how many schools and colleges would have been benefited thereby? I ask the members of Council to answer that? If the Rs. 17½ lakhs had gone to the Public Health Department, for anti-malarial projects, that would have added to the strength, health and efficiency of the people. I do not know if that has to be ignored and only the health and efficiency of the police furthered. Then, the Hon'ble Mr. Donald has held out a bait, viz., that the saving

of Rs. 1½ lakhs would be placed at the disposal of the transferred departments. But for how long this will be done? The note says that this provision will be repeated for two years more. But why not propose to finance all the police buildings by a loan of Rs. 17½ lakhs when a loan can very well be raised, and give Rs. 17½ lakhs to the transferred departments as a promise made by the Government that the transferred departments would be benefited by the surplus if it ever accrued? It is a pity that after years of deficit budget the moment the Government has got a surplus, it is going to spend the surplus for the Police Department—a surplus which has accrued out of balances of three new taxes which were imposed upon the people of this province and a surplus which is illusory, as the Hon'ble Mr. Donald knows, in view of the temporary remission of the provincial contribution by the Government of India. I hope, Sir that the Council will take all these facts into consideration before sanctioning this expenditure of Rs. 17½ lakhs out of the provincial balances for expenditure on brick and mortar for the Police Department.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Sir, I beg to move the motion which stands against my name; and in doing so, I will add only a few words to what has been said by my friends Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray and Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri. I strongly condemn the policy of frittering away the balances. These balances were accumulated as a result of retrenchment in the nation-building departments. You starve these departments, you prevent the expansion of education, you do not take sanitary measures for the prevention of disease in this country, you allow the people to die of malaria, you do not give drinking water to the rural population, and by these economical measures you accumulate the balances, and how do you spend these sums, you spend them on police buildings? I am indeed strongly opposed to this policy of wasting the balances. During the last budget discussion, I proposed that the balances should be constituted into a separate fund for some special object, such as sanitation; and Mr. C. R. Das also proposed a scheme for properly utilising them. But no heed was paid to these suggestions. Now, Mr. Donald comes forward with a scheme for erecting luxurious buildings for the police. I oppose this demand.

Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY: I beg to support the motion. I do not think I have anything to add to what has been said by the previous speakers.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKAR, Mr. D. N. ROY, SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ, Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULI and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURI rose in their respective places in support of the motion but made no speeches.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Has the Hon'ble Mr. Donald anything to say in reply?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: Can the matter stand over 'till to-morrow?

Mr. PRESIDENT: The discussion is finished. We have only eight minutes more left.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I am prepared to meet the wishes of the members that this sum will be recouped from a loan for the whole amount of Rs. 17½ lakhs.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will you pay this sum to the transferred departments?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I cannot definitely promise that, but money will be transferred for expenditure in the transferred departments.

Mr. PRESIDENT: In the circumstances, I am prepared to adjourn this matter till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till Wednesday, the 27th August, 1924, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act.**

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 27th August, 1924, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers, and 124 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

**Discontinuance on certain trains on Katihar-Godagari Section of
Eastern Bengal Railway.**

***XX. Babu ROMES CHANDRA BAGCHI:** (a) With reference to the reply given on the 26th February, 1924, to clause (c) of starred question No. XII, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state whether the attention of the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway has been drawn to the subject-matter of the question?

(b) If so, what reply have the Railway authorities given?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS [RAILWAYS] (the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi): (a) Yes.

(b) The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, has replied that the re-introduction of 17 Up and 18 Down trains on the Katihar-Godagari Section would necessitate the opening of this section to night running, for which the extra expenditure involved would not be justified by the traffic offering on this section. It is therefore not contemplated to reopen the Katihar-Godagari Section for night running at present.

**Increase in expenditure if effect be given to Lee Commission's
recommendations.**

***XXI. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing what increases in Provincial expenditure under the different heads of pay, allowance, etc., will result from

giving effect to the recommendations of the Lee Commission with regard to the various services?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): Government have so far not calculated the expenditure involved, and it is not therefore possible now to furnish the information asked for.

Opinions of the Government of Bengal on the working of the Reforms.

***XXII. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what opinions, if any, have been submitted by the Government of Bengal before the Muddiman Committee appointed by His Excellency the Viceroy to inquire into certain aspects of the working of the Reforms under the Government of India Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: The Government have been invited by the Government of India to express their opinions on the working of the Reforms and these opinions when received may be submitted to the Muddiman Committee. They are not, however, available to members of the Legislative Council. The Government have not had any communication with the Muddiman Committee direct.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Will the Legislative Council be furnished with the opinions of the Bengal Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: It is not the intention to submit to the Legislative Council the opinion of the Bengal Government.

Honorary magistrates of Bakarganj from different communities.

***XXIII. Maulvi FAZAL KARIM CHOWDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the period from 1916 to 1923 and for each of the subdivisions of the district of Bakarganj:—

(i) the number of Honorary Magistrates from the following Communities:—

- (a) Muhammadan;
- (b) Christian;
- (c) high class Hindu; and
- (d) low class Hindu?

(ii) the number of cases tried by each of them; and

(iii) the amount drawn as travelling allowances by each of them?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (i), (ii) and (iii) A statement is placed on the Library table.

Question of allowing Muhammadan Chaukidars of Kalkini (Faridpur) to enter Hindu Kitchens for distraint.

***XXIV. Dr. MOHINI MOHON DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state the number of—

- (i) Hindu, and
- (ii) Muhammadan

chaukidars in Thana Kalkini in the District of Faridpur?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the Hindus entertain religious scruples to the entering of the Muhammadan chaukidars into their kitchens for attaching their moveable property for non-payment of Chaukidari Tax?

(a) Are the Government considering it desirable to employ Hindu chaukidars for purposes of such attachment in cases of Hindu residents?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (a) The figures are as follows:—

Duffadars: Hindus 2; Muhammadans 9; Total 11.

Chaukidars: Hindus 17; Muhammadans 128; Total 145.

(b) The access of Muhammadans to the kitchens of Hindus whether for the purpose of attaching moveable property or for any other reason would naturally be resented.

(c) Government consider that this matter may safely be left to the Presidents of Unions.

Stationing of Special Armed Police at Narkelbari (Gopalganj).

***XXV. Dr. MOHINI MOHON DAS:** (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that in connection with the arrest of certain persons in the house of Srinath Banik and Akrur Banik of village Narekelbari in the subdivision of Gopalganj in the District of Faridpur a large number of armed Police has been stationed in the village for a long time?

(b) Who pay the expenses for the maintenance of these Armed Police?

(c) Is it a fact that Srinath Banik and Akrur Banik have to bear the food expenses of the said Police force?

(d) Is it a fact that female inmates of the house who wanted to leave the house were prevented by the Police from doing so?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) Yes. It is a fact that one head constable and 8 constables of the Special Armed Force were stationed at Narkelbari, police-station Gopalganj, in the house of Srinath Banik and Akrur Banik with their permission—that house being suitable for the accommodation of the men concerned—and the force (since withdrawn) was kept there for about a month.

(b) The force was maintained at the expense of the public revenues. As for their food, etc., they made their own arrangements at their own expense.

(c) and (d) No such complaints were made to the Superintendent of Police.

Proposals for acquisition of lands by East Indian Railway near Belur Math.

***XXVI. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY:** (a) With reference to the notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated 9th April, 1924, announcing the withdrawal by the Governor in Council of the proposal to acquire lands in the vicinity of the Belur Math, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that a further project involving almost the same area with nominal exclusion has been proposed by the authorities of the East Indian Railway Company; and

(ii) if so, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the proposal of the Railway authorities has the approval of the Government?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing a *communiqué* to assure the public mind that the area which has been given up already will not in the future be taken up for acquisition?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: (a) (i) and (ii) The fresh proposals of the East Indian Railway authorities have not yet been formally received or accepted by this Government, but it is understood that they contemplate a considerable reduction in the area to be taken up by the Railway Company.

(b) A *communiqué* as suggested is not considered necessary in view of the fact that under the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1923, persons interested in the matter are competent to file objections before the Collector within 30 days of the publication of the notification under section 4 of the Act.

Pabna murder case.

***XXVII. Mr. S. N. HALDAR:** (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department been drawn to the judgment delivered by the Sessions Judge of Pabna on or about the 19th of March last in the murder case, in which two persons, Jaub Ali and Abdul Gani were placed for trial before the Court of Sessions after inquiry by the Police?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the substance of that judgment and the reasons why the accused were let off?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of accepting the opinion of the learned Judge who tried the case with the help of a jury that the investigating police officer perjured himself and made others do the same? If not, why not?

(d) Are the Government considering the desirability of accepting the opinion of the trying Judge that the investigating police officer caused the deceased Johur to make a statement implicating the accused and that his dying declaration was a fabricated one for which the officer in question alone was responsible? If not, why not?

(e) Is the police officer in question still in Government service and doing his usual duties?

(f) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any public action in the matter upon the suggestion of the trying Judge, namely—

(i) the immediate dismissal of the police officer; and

(ii) his criminal prosecution for perjury and for procuring false evidence?

(g) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether during the year 1923, cases of a similar nature, namely, fabrication of evidence by police officers have come to the notice, or have been brought to the knowledge, of the Government?

(h) If the answer to (g) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the number of such cases;

(ii) where and under what circumstances such cases took place; and

(iii) the action the Government took in each such case?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) The attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks of the Sessions Judge in the case in question. These have been referred to a Commission appointed under section 94(3) (ii) of the Police Regulations, Bengal, Part I, consisting of a Sessions Judge and a District Magistrate, and Government do not consider it desirable to make any further statement in the case pending the result of the inquiry by this Commission.

(e) The officer is under suspension pending the inquiry, and is not employed on police duty.

(g) Yes.

(h) (i) Two cases.

(ii) One case occurred in Dacca in which a Sub-Inspector was found at a departmental inquiry to have made a false statement in his deposition in a rioting case. In the other case the Sessions Judge of Saran commented on the conduct of a Sub-Inspector and two constables of the 24-Parganas district who were alleged to have made false statements before him and to have fabricated certain documents to support evidence in a case of rioting with murder.

(iii) In the Dacca case the officer was punished departmentally. In the Saran case the Sub-Inspector and constables were prosecuted under section 193, I. P. C., on the complaint of the Sessions Judge, but were acquitted under section 258, C. P. C., by the trying court.

Mr. S. N. HALDAR: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to give us the names of the Magistrate and of the Sessions Judge sitting over the Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: In one case the Commission consisted of the District and Sessions Judge of the Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts and the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling.

Mr. S. N. HALDAR: When was this Commission appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I think it was after the appeal was heard.

Mr. S. N. HALDAR: Has the Commission at all met; and has its report been submitted?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: Yes.

Chittagong Medical School.

. *XXVIII. **Maulvi SAYEDAL HOQUE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether the Government stands committed to help the Chittagong medical school?

(b) If so, what grants, initial and recurring, have been sanctioned for the same school and from what time will the grants run?

(c) Will there be any reservation of seats for any class or community or of any kind?

(d) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the details of such reservation?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT [MEDICAL] (the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq):

(a) Government have recognised the desirability of establishing a Medical School at Chittagong. No definite scheme has yet been submitted to Government by the local Committee?

(c) No grants—initial or recurring—have yet been sanctioned. Out of Rs. 50,000 placed at the disposal of the Minister for Local Self-Government by Babu Sanat Kumar Mukherji for medical education, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea earmarked Rs. 20,000 for the proposed school at Chittagong.

(c) and (d) The questions will not arise until the school is actually started.

Percentage of persons qualified in technical and commercial education.

***XXIX. Maulvi SAYEDAL HOQUE:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state for the period of last 10 years ending 31st March, 1923, the percentage of those persons who have qualified themselves in Technical and Commercial Education—

(i) out of the total population of Bengal; and

(ii) out of the educated class (taking general and technical education together) in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Huq): (i) A statement is laid on the table.
(ii) The question is insufficiently definite.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (i) of starred question No. XXIX, showing the percentage of passes in Technical and Commercial education to the total population for the last ten years.

| Year. | Number of passes. | Total population of Bengal. | Percentage. |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1913-14 | 400 | 45,483,077 | Rs. 0009 |
| 1914-15 | 314 | 45,483,077 | 0007 |
| 1915-16 | 268 | 45,483,077 | 00059 |
| 1916-17 | 290 | 45,483,077 | 0006 |
| 1917-18 | 356 | 45,483,077 | 0008 |
| 1918-19 | 375 | 45,483,077 | 0008 |
| 1919-20 | 420 | 45,483,077 | 0009 |
| 1920-21 | 764 | 45,483,077 | 0017 |
| 1921-22 | 724 | 46,695,536 | 0016 |
| 1922-23 | 695 | 46,695,536 | 0015 |

Hostels and boarding houses for students in Calcutta.

***XXX. Maulvi SAYEDAL HQQUE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the total strength of Muhammadan and Hindu College students (including Law, Medical and Post-graduate) reading in the several colleges in Calcutta?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of hostels and boarding houses for the accommodation of Muhammadan and Hindu College students in Calcutta?

(c) Is it a fact that the hostels and boarding houses in Calcutta have been found insufficient for the accommodation of the students?

(d) What steps, if any, are the Government taking for the removal of the want in this respect?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL-HUQ: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) There are 77 hostels and messes for college students in Calcutta; 32 of these institutions are for Law, Medical and Post-graduate students, but it is not known how many of these are for Muhammadans and how many for Hindus. Of the remaining 45, 5 are reserved exclusively for Muhammadans, 485 places being set aside for undergraduates and 49 for other Moslem students. Total 534 places reserved for Muhammadans.

(c) No complaint has been made with regard to the insufficiency of hostel accommodation for college students in Calcutta so far as men students are concerned. Government have had to deal with complaints in respect of the inadequacy of hostels for women students and a hostel for girls has been opened by the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj with the help of a Government grant.

(d) In view of the reply to (c) above the question does not arise.

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question
No. XXX.*

Figures for 31st March, 1923.

| | | | Hindus. | Muhammadans. |
|------------------------------|----|----|---------|--------------|
| 1. Presidency College | .. | .. | 797 | 146 |
| 2. Sanskrit College | .. | .. | 74 | - |
| 3. Scottish Churches College | .. | .. | 1,021 | 7 |
| 4. St Xavier's College | .. | .. | 556 | 146 |
| 5. St. Paul's College | .. | .. | 175 | 7 |

| | | | Hindus. | Muhammadans. |
|-----|---|--------|---------|--------------|
| 6. | City College | .. .. | 1,635 | 154 |
| 7. | Bangabasi College | .. .. | 1,606 | 77 |
| 8. | Ripon College | .. .. | 926 | 201 |
| 9. | Vidyasagar College | .. .. | 1,334 | .. |
| 10. | South Suburban | .. .. | 652 | 22 |
| 11. | Central College | .. .. | 26 | 3 |
| 12. | Post-Graduate Arts, Calcutta University | .. .. | 804 | 65 |
| 13. | Post-Graduate Science University | .. .. | 166 | 2 |
| 14. | University Law College | .. .. | 1,714 | 147 |
| 15. | Ripon Law College | .. .. | 442 | 158 |
| 16. | Medical College | .. .. | 869 | 114 |
| 17. | School of Tropical Medicine | .. .. | 60 | |
| 18. | Bethune College | .. .. | 86 | |
| 19. | Diocesan College | .. .. | 42 | 2 (Girls)- |
| 20. | Loreto | ... .. | 2 | |
| | | | 12,987 | 1,251 |

Jute forecast.

***XXXI. Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN:** (a) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that the import of jute in Calcutta during the season 1923-24 exceeded the official forecast by about 25 per cent.?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state who were responsible for this official forecast of the jute crop?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken or are proposed to ensure correctness of the future forecasts as far as possible?

(d) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the official forecast of the jute crop is relied upon by the producers, dealers and manufacturers to form their respective estimates to carry on their business?

(e) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that inaccuracy in the forecast causes inconvenience and loss to traders in jute?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE (the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi): (a) Yes.

(b) The jute forecast was compiled by the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, from statistics supplied to him by the District Officers and by officers of the Agricultural Department in Bengal. It also included estimates prepared in a similar manner in the Provinces of Bihar and Assam.

The estimates of both area and outturn per acre as originally submitted by the local officers were generally much lower than those published. Both factors were materially increased by the Director of Agriculture after their receipt from the districts.

(c) The attention of all compiling officers has already been drawn to the lowness of the estimate in question. They have been asked to revise their figures accordingly and to make more careful estimates for the current year's forecast.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

Municipal Scavenging Railway on the Circular Road.

***XXXII. Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(i) when and with what object the Municipal Railway line on the Circular Road, Calcutta, was constructed; and

(ii) how was the locality, through which the said line passes, populated at the time of construction?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that a large number of houses have, in recent years, been constructed on the East and West sides of the line and that many new roads have also been opened?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that on many occasions during the day, carts and trucks laden with refuse are left waiting, for hours, and sometimes throughout the day, causing annoyance and inconvenience to both the foot and the wheeled traffic and endangering the health of the people residing in the locality?

(d) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the report of the Health Officer of the Calcutta Corporation shows that the mortality from preventable diseases like dysentery, respiratory diseases, typhoid, etc., is in the wards through which this Railway runs higher than in all other parts of Calcutta, except Kidderpore?

(e) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early measures to remove this nuisance?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:

(a) (i) The Municipal Railway was constructed in 1867 for the removal of city refuse to the Square Mile at Dhappa.

(ii) The eastern portion of Circular Road which was then outside the city was thinly populated.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is reported that carts and trucks are left waiting on occasions but only under unavoidable circumstances.

(d) The Municipal Railway passes through wards 1, 3, 4, 9 and 19 and between wards 11, 14 and 15 on one side and wards 19 and 20 on the other. The vital statistics of Calcutta for 1922 show that the mortality

from enteric is above the average for the city in wards 1, 3 and 11, but is below the average in wards 19 and 20. The mortality from dysentery and respiratory diseases is very high in wards 19 and 20.

All wagons both from the southern and northern sections pass through ward 19 on their way to the Square Mile and this ward seems to be chiefly affected. But wards 19 and 20 particularly the eastern portion are practically undrained with numerous tanks, service privies, etc., and it is difficult to draw any definite conclusion that the unhealthiness of these wards is solely due to the existence of the Railway.

(e) The removal of the railway is primarily a matter for the Calcutta Corporation and the Executive Officer reports as follows:—

“The Corporation recognise the necessity of removing the Municipal Railway from Circular Road and decided some years ago to have the refuse from the city removed by motor lorries to a central platform at Chingreehatta away from the main streams of traffic and from residential areas, and to retain the Municipal Railway only for conveying the refuse from that platform to the Square Mile. The lorry service has already been introduced in one district, and funds have been earmarked in the budget for 1924-25 to extend the service to the other districts and to complete the proposed platform at Chingreehatta. Now that funds have been provided, it is hoped that it will be possible to abolish the Municipal Railway from Circular Road in a year or two.”

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: Is it not a fact that these conservancy trucks are brought from Dhappa and cleansed and washed alongside the Cholera Ward of the Campbell Hospital?

Mr. PRESIDENT: (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): That is rather a matter for the Corporation.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: I want information.

Colleges and grants-in-aid.

***XXXIII. Mr. D. N. ROY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (i) the number of colleges in the whole of Bengal, mentioning the names, district by district;
- (ii) which of them are Government colleges;
- (iii) which of them receive grants-in-aid from the Government; and
- (iv) the amount of the aid granted to each college per month?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred, question No. XXXIII, showing district by district the number of Government, aided and unaided colleges, Arts, Science and Professional.

| Name of college. | Name of district. | Whether maintained by Government or aided by Government. | Amount of aid granted to each aided college per month. |
|--|-------------------|--|--|
| | | | Rs. |
| 1. Presidency College | Calcutta .. | Government .. | .. |
| 2. Sanskrit | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 3. Bethune | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 4. David Hare Training College | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 5. Scottish Churches | " .. | Aided .. | 2,000 |
| 6. City College | " .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 7. Vidyasagar College | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 8. Ripon College | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 9. Bangabasi College | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 10. Diocesan College for Girls | " .. | Aided .. | 900 |
| 11. St Paul's Cathedral Mission College | " .. | " .. | 1,000 |
| 12. St Xavier's College | " .. | " .. | 1,650 |
| 13. Central College | " .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 14. Loro House for Girls | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 15. South Suburban College, Bhowanipur | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 16. Medical College, Calcutta | " .. | Government .. | .. |
| 17. Belgachia Medical College | " .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 18. Ripon Law College | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 19. University Law College | " .. | " .. | .. |
| 20. Veterinary College, Belgachia | " .. | Government .. | .. |
| 21. Diocesan College Training Class | " .. | Aided .. | 6,898 |
| 22. School of Tropical Medicine | " .. | Government .. | .. |
| 23. Victoria College, Narail | Jessore .. | " .. | 150 |
| 24. Bagerhat College | Khulna .. | " .. | 250 |
| 25. Daulatpur Hindu Academy | " .. | " .. | 600 |
| 26. Krishnagar College | Nadia .. | Government .. | .. |
| 27. Krishnath College, Berhampur | Murshidabad .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 28. Krishnath College Commerce Department, Berhampur | " .. | Aided .. | 415 |
| 29. Wesleyan Mission College | Bankura .. | " .. | 1,000 |
| 30. Krishna Chandra College, Hetampur | Birbhum .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 31. Burdwan Raj College | Burdwan .. | " .. | .. |
| 32. Hooghly College | Hooghly .. | Government .. | 6 |
| 33. Uttarpara College | " .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 34. Serampur Mission College | " .. | Aided .. | 1,000 |
| 35. Nursing Dutt College | Howrah .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 36. Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur | " .. | Government .. | .. |
| 37. Midnapore College | Midnapore .. | Aided .. | 654 |
| 38. Dacca Intermediate College | Dacca .. | Government .. | .. |
| 39. Jagannath Intermediate College | " .. | Aided .. | 4,128 |
| 40. Dacca Training College | " .. | Government .. | .. |
| 41. Dacca Law College* .. .. | " .. | .... | .. |
| 42. Intermediate classes attached to the Eden High School for Girls, Dacca | " .. | Government .. | .. |
| 43. Brajamohan College | Barisal .. | Aided .. | 1,200 |
| 44. Rajendra College | Faridpur .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 45. Anandamohan College | Mymensingh .. | Aided .. | 850 |
| 46. Chittagong College | Chittagong .. | Government .. | .. |
| 47. Feni College | Noakhali .. | Unaided .. | .. |
| 48. Victoria College, Comilla | Tippera .. | Aided .. | 350 |
| 49. Edward College | Pabna .. | " .. | 750 |
| 50. Rajshahi College | Rajshahi .. | Government .. | .. |
| 51. Carmichael College | Rangpur .. | Aided .. | 750 |
| 52. Victoria College, Cooch Behar | Cooch Behar .. | Unaided .. | .. |

Convicted political prisoners confined in jails outside Bengal.

***XXXIV. Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the names of the Bengali political prisoners convicted for offence committed in Bengal, who are being detained in jails outside Bengal; and

(ii) the names of the jails wherein they are confined?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of having them transferred to some Bengal jail?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (a) (i) A list is laid on the table of prisoners convicted of offences connected with politics.

(ii) Government do not consider it desirable to publish this information.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

List of convicted political prisoners confined in the Jails outside Bengal referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) of starred question No. XXXIV.

- (1) Suresh Chandra Sen Gupta.
- (2) Nikhil Ranjan Guha Ray.
- (3) Khagendra Nath Chaudhury.
- (4) Sachindra Dutta *alias* Hem Chandra Sarkar.
- (5) Surendra Nath Biswas.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: May I ask the Hon'ble Member whether the transfer of Bengalee political prisoners outside Bengal is due to want of accommodation in jails in Bengal or for other reasons?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I am not prepared to state the reasons.

Transfer of certain prisoners from jail to jail.

***XXXV. Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that political prisoners Dukha Haran Pandit, Jonardhan Kheskhel, Narendra Nath Dutta, Manilal Jain, Gobardhan Bai Patel or any one of them were transferred from the Hooghly Jail to the Baraset Jail after their conviction under section 52 of the Prisons Act, 1894 (IX of 1894)?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for the transfer?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state why after a stay of 3 months in the Baraset Jail they were suddenly transferred to the Burdwan Jail?

(d) Is it a fact that the privileges generally allowed to special class prisoners and the privilege of the use of private clothings, mosquito curtains and other articles have been withdrawn in their cases?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for such withdrawal?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) and (b) The prisoners named in the question were transferred from Hooghly to Baraset Jail in the interests of jail discipline.

(c) They were transferred to Burdwan to make room for other convicts required for the Baraset Jail garden.

(d) They were not put in the special class.

(e) This question does not arise.

Superintendents of Jails.

***XXXVI. Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (i) the names of the I.M.S. Officers in Bengal appointed as Superintendents or Chief Executive Officers of Jails;
- (ii) the names of those jails; and
- (iii) the salaries drawn by each such I.M.S. Officer?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether there is a large number of Europeans as convicts in any of these jails, who like to be treated only by European Medical Officers and who object to be treated by an Indian Doctor?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing the Medical Officers in charge of all jails from amongst the Independent Medical Practitioners as a step towards economy?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) A statement giving the information is placed on the table.

(b) The number of European convicts is small. Government have no information as to their preference for medical treatment from European Medical officers or Indian Doctors.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. XXXVI showing the I.M.S. Officers appointed as Superintendents of Jails.

| Name of I. M. S. Officers appointed as Superintendents of Jails. | Name of Jail. | Salary drawn from the Jail Department. |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| | | Rs. |
| (1) Major N. S. Simpson .. | Presidency Jail .. | 1,500 |
| (2) Capt. B. G. Mallya .. | Dacca Central Jail .. | 1,200 |
| (3) Major A. Denham White .. | Midnapore Central Jail .. | 300 |
| (4) Major J. D. Sandes .. | Rajshahi Central Jail .. | 300 |
| (5) Major K. S. Thakur .. | Barisal Jail .. | 150 |
| (6) Major E. B. Munro .. | Mymensingh Jail .. | 150 |
| (7) Lt.-Col. E. O. Thurston .. | Hooghly Jail .. | 100 |
| (8) Lt. Col. H. B. Steen .. | Chittagong Jail .. | 100 |
| (9) Major W. O. Walker .. | Jalpaiguri Jail .. | 75 |
| (10) Lt.-Col. D. P. Goil .. | Howrah Jail .. | 50 |

Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY: May I ask the Hon'ble Member whether these officers are allowed private practice?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: The first two officers on the list are allowed private practice and the others are only part-time officers.

Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY: May I ask another question? Is it not a fact that under the jail regulations the Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents are debarred from private practice?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: That is, as far as I know, not as regards part-time Superintendents.

Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY: Are there two different kinds of Superintendents?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: Yes.

Buddhist students in Dacca Medical School.

***XXXVII. Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. XCVI during the last session of the Council, will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether there are Buddhist students in the Dacca Medical School?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: There are three Buddhist students at present reading in the Dacca Medical School.

Case of one Babu Sundar Lal dying in the Medical College Hospital from gun-shot wound.

***XXXVIII. Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether any inquiry was made into the details of the death of one Babu Sundar Lal who was admitted into the Medical College Hospital on the 27th December, 1923, suffering from a gun-shot wound, and who died the subsequent day?

(b) If so, was the allegation that bribes were paid to some of the Medical College staff substantiated?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken against the persons implicated?

(d) If no inquiry has been made are the Government considering the desirability of instituting one?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) Yes. A detailed inquiry was held by the Police as well as by a committee consisting of:—

Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. F. Barnardo, C.I.E., C.B.E., I.M.S.

Major Hassan Suhrawardy, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.L.C.

Rai Sir Kailas Chandra Basu Bahadur, Kt., O.B.E.

(b) No. The allegation was found to be false.

(c) and (d) The questions do not arise.

Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY: Is it the usual practice to have a post mortem examination made in all medico-legal cases and if so, was such examination made in this particular case?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I must have notice.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister if all the three gentlemen were on the staff of the Medical College at the time?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I have no information.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: May I ask in connection with this matter what sort of evidence was taken and whose evidence was taken?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I am not in a position to give details at the present moment.

Bengal Secretariat Press at Calcutta.

***XXXIX. Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER:** (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be

pleased to furnish a statement showing the annual Establishment charges of the Bengal Secretariat Press at Calcutta from the year 1914-15 to 1922-23 and the annual outturn of work during that period?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state and furnish figures showing the cost incurred in the purchase of plant and machinery for the Bengal Secretariat Press at Calcutta annually since the year 1914-15 and what have been the savings in the recurring establishment charges?

(c) Is it a fact that when the Branch Press was established at Sealdah an extra establishment was sanctioned pending the amalgamation of the main and branch Presses in the new Alipore buildings?

(d) When was that amalgamation effected?

(e) Has the temporary establishment been abolished? If not, why not?

(f) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to furnish a statement showing the cost incurred annually, since the year 1914-15 up to the end of the last financial year, for the purchase of teak wood for the Secretariat Press and explain any unusual charge that might be found?

(g) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the period for which the Press staff were allowed tram hire charges owing to the transfer of the Press from the Writers' Buildings to Alipore, and what has been the amount of expense incurred on that account, and the time up to which they were actually allowed the tram hire?

(h) If the charges were not paid as was originally sanctioned will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reasons for the discontinuance?

(i) Was the sanction of the Government obtained and were the employees compensated in any way for the hardships caused to them owing to the discontinuance of this allowance?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson): (a) A statement showing the annual establishment charges of the Bengal Government Press from the year 1914-15 to 1922-23 and the annual outturn of work during that period is placed on the table.

(b) (i) With regard to the first part of the question a statement showing the expenditure incurred in purchasing machinery and plant is placed on the table.

(b) (ii) Owing to the steady increase in the volume of work undertaken by the Press it is not possible to estimate what savings have been effected by the introduction of mechanical means to replace manual labour.

(c) When the Branch Press was removed to Sealdah four extra posts were sanctioned. At that time the amalgamation of the main branch presses in the new Alipore buildings had not been thought of.

(d) The two Presses were amalgamated in the year 1923.

(e) Two of the four temporary posts have been abolished and two have been retained as the services of the incumbents are still required by Government.

(f) A statement showing the cost of teak wood is placed on the table. No question of any unusual charge arises as the teak wood was purchased from time to time at the bazar rate to meet actual requirements for preparing racks, etc., for the use of the Press.

(g) Tram-hire was paid for three months only. The expenditure was about Rs. 11,430. All the employees were actually paid for the period sanctioned by Government, counting from the time they were transferred individually.

(h) The question does not arise.

(i) Government sanction was given for 3 months only. It was considered that this would allow the employees sufficient time to settle in the neighbourhood of the Press.

*Statements referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question
No. XXXIX.*

(1) Payments to the Establishments from 1914-15 to 1922-23.

| | | | Rs. |
|---------|-----|-----|----------|
| 1914-15 | ... | ... | 3,42,059 |
| 1915-16 | ... | ... | 3,22,958 |
| 1916-17 | ... | ... | 2,97,055 |
| 1917-18 | ... | ... | 2,88,331 |
| 1918-19 | ... | ... | 2,99,121 |
| 1919-20 | ... | ... | 3,74,096 |
| 1920-21 | ... | ... | 4,45,146 |
| 1921-22 | ... | ... | 5,26,839 |
| 1922-23 | ... | ... | 5,62,283 |

(2) Value of Outturn from 1914-15 to 1922-23.

| | | | Rs. |
|---------|-----|-----|----------|
| 1914-15 | ... | ... | 4,14,484 |
| 1915-16 | ... | ... | 3,90,010 |
| 1916-17 | ... | ... | 3,62,725 |
| 1917-18 | ... | ... | 3,53,587 |
| 1918-19 | ... | ... | 3,74,561 |
| 1919-20 | ... | ... | 4,43,666 |
| 1920-21 | ... | ... | 5,15,499 |
| 1921-22 | ... | ... | 6,16,707 |
| 1922-23 | .. | ... | 6,70,328 |

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question
No. XXXIX.*

Additions to Plant of the Press during 1914-15 to 1922-23.

| | | | Rs. |
|---------|-----|-----|----------|
| 1914-15 | ... | ... | 86,115 |
| 1915-16 | ... | ... | 52,357 |
| 1916-17 | ... | ... | 34,299 |
| 1917-18 | ... | ... | 39,672 |
| 1918-19 | ... | ... | 1,09,544 |
| 1919-20 | ... | ... | 70,975 |
| 1920-21 | ... | ... | 1,61,258 |
| 1921-22 | ... | ... | 1,96,405 |
| 1922-23 | ... | ... | 3,11,751 |

*Statement referred to in the reply to clause (f) of starred question
No. XXXIX.*

Purchase of Teak wood from 1914-15 to 1922-23.

| | | | Rs. | a. | p. |
|---------|-----|-----|-------|----|----|
| 1914-15 | ... | ... | 702 | 5 | 4 |
| 1915-16 | ... | ... | 1,316 | 15 | 8 |
| 1916-17 | ... | ... | 313 | 9 | 2 |
| 1917-18 | ... | ... | 463 | 4 | 8 |
| 1918-19 | ... | ... | 483 | 2 | 3 |
| 1919-20 | ... | ... | 876 | 10 | 9 |
| 1920-21 | ... | ... | 706 | 11 | 9 |
| 1921-22 | ... | ... | 621 | 9 | 7 |
| 1922-23 | ... | ... | 893 | 8 | 5 |

**Waterways provided on the Eastern Bengal Railway system
in North Bengal.**

***XL. Mr. N. C. SEN:** With reference to the reply to clause (ii) of starred question No. LXX put by Maulvi Sayedal Hoque at the meeting held on the 12th March, 1924, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state the number of waterways that are being provided?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur): 1. On the Bogra Section of the Railway four water-ways as detailed below have been completed :—

- (1) A new bridge of 10 spans of 20 ft. girders at mile 178/4-5 F.
- (2) A new bridge of 3 spans of 20 ft. girders at mile 182/5-6 F.
- (3) A new bridge of 5 spans of 20 ft. girders at mile 188/5-6 F.
- (4) Addition of 5 spans of 20 ft. girder bridge to the existing bridge over the Eramoti river at mile 181/4-5 F.

2. On the Sara-Sirajganj Railway the construction of a bridge of 15 spans of 40 ft. girders at mile 151 has been taken up.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: May I rise to a point of order? The Hon'ble Maharaja has not been sworn in.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Members of the Executive Council are *ex-officio* members.

Mr. N. C. SEN: Does Government consider that these 5 bridges are quite sufficient?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: Is it a matter of opinion and if that is so am I entitled to give a reply?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can decline to answer.

Mr. N. C. SEN: May I ask if these bridges have been found sufficient for this year's flood—I mean for the outlet of water this year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: Yes, they were found sufficient for this year; but I may say that the matter is under inquiry.

Dr. J. M. DAS GUPTA: May I ask the Hon'ble Member if a special committee was appointed immediately after the Northern Bengal Floods and whether their recommendation for the provision of sufficient space in the new bridges for waterways has been accepted?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: A special committee was appointed but it has not yet submitted any report.

Dr. J. M. DAS GUPTA: May I know when this committee was appointed and when its report is likely to be received?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: I am afraid I will have to refer to the Secretariat to find out the date of the appointment of the committee: as a matter of fact I have not got the papers with me.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Tea shops in Calcutta.

24. Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department aware that Police licences are issued without sufficient inquiry for opening tea shops (eating houses) in Calcutta?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that these tea shops are haunts of goondas and habitual criminals?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that these tea shops are a source of nuisance and danger to their neighbourhood?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) I cannot admit that such licences are issued without sufficient inquiry.

(b) My information does not support this statement.

(c) My information is that these tea shops are not a source of nuisance or danger.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: I should like to know whether the Hon'ble Member's information referred to in the answer was obtained as a result of an inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I certainly made an inquiry.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: Has it been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Member that a complaint was made that Anglo-Indian ladies were molested near the tea-shops sometime ago?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I shall make an inquiry.

Supply of Court-fee stamps in Rangpur.

25. Rai Sahib PANCHANAN BARMA: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the litigant public in the district of Rangpur are frequently put to inconvenience for the inadequate supply of Court-fee stamps?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that complaints in this behalf have, from time to time, been made by the members of the Local Bar Association, both to the District Judge and to the Collector, but without result?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased also to state whether this inadequate supply is due to the fact that the vendors do not get their supplies of Court-fee stamps more than twice in the week?

(d) Are the Government considering the advisability of supplying Court-fee stamps to the vendors daily instead of only twice in the week as the practice stands at present?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (a) and (b) There is no information before Government.

(c) Under the rules the licensed stamp vendors may obtain a supply of stamps from the *ex-officio* vendors every day (rule 18 on page 197 of the Stamp Manual).

(d) The question does not arise.

Bhairab river scheme.

26. Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the scheme for the improvement of the Bhairab river has been finally prepared?

(b) Is there any likelihood of the scheme being carried out at an early date? If so, when?

(c) If there be delay in carrying out the scheme, are the Government considering the advisability of immediately carrying out the dredging of the Bhairab river at the junction of the river with the Afra khal and with the Jangalbadhal khal?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur): (a) Two projects are under the consideration of Government for improving the Bhairab river between the Matabhanga and Khulna for which detailed plans and estimates have been received.

(b) It is not possible to say when these schemes will be taken up, but they will be sent to the Collector as early as possible to institute proceedings under Act VI of 1920.

(c) A small scheme is under investigation for introducing a supply of silt-laden water from the Ritta khal into the Bhairab, some miles above the Afra khal. It is probable that the project for these works will be completed during the next cold weather. It is not intended to dredge these reaches of the Bhairab, but to improve them by flushing.

Deprovincialization of Model Primary Girls' Schools.

27. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what savings are expected from the deprovincialization of the 42 Model Primary Schools for girls?

(b) What was the total annual expenditure in connection with each of the said schools during the last three years?

(c) What sum is proposed to be given to each of them as grant-in-aid?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) The net annual savings are estimated at Rs. 18,180.

(b) The average annual cost for each school was Rs. 905 approximately during the last 3 years.

(c) The grant-in-aid sanctioned varies from Rs. 30 to Rs. 65 per mensem per school.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to part (a) of the answer whether the estimated savings have been arrived at after deducting the proposed grant?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: Yes, they are net after deduction.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to part (c) of the answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to furnish a statement showing the amount of proposed grant for each school?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: That may be for some future Minister to do. I cannot do it to-day.

Muhammadan Educational Officers in Bakarganj district.

28. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the district of Bakarganj—

(i) the number of Sub-Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and District Deputy Inspectors of schools belonging to the—

(A) Hindu Community; and

(B) Muhammadan Community, and

(ii) the percentage of the Hindu and Muhammadan officers referred to in (i)?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of Educational officers of different ranks in the district of Bakarganj other than those referred to in (a) classifying them in accordance with the races to which they belong?

(c) Is it a fact that over 72 per cent. of the population of the Bakarganj district is Muhammadan?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) According to the Census figures for 1921, the percentage is 70·5 Government recognize that Moslem representation in these services is not adequate and persistent efforts are being made to employ suitable Muhammadans as vacancies occur. It will necessarily take some time before past deficiencies are made up and an adequate percentage of Moslems is attained.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 28.

| | Hindus. | Muhammadans. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| (a) (i) (1) District Inspector | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| (2) Subdivisional Inspectors | 3 | .. | 3 |
| (3) Sub-Inspectors | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| (ii) Percentage | 62·5 | 37·5 | .. |

N.B.—There are no longer Deputy and District Deputy Inspectors. They are now called, respectively "Subdivisional Inspectors and District Inspectors."

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 28.

| | Hindus. | Muhammadans. | Total |
|--|---------|--------------|-------|
| (b) Educational officers of different ranks other than those in (a) (i) :— | | | |
| (1) High School teachers | 55 | 15 | 70 |
| (2) Guru-training School teachers | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| (3) Circle Pandits | 9 | .. | 9 |

Daulatpur Hindu Academy and alleged ill-treatment of Muhammadan boys.

29. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Syedpur Trust Estate, known as the Mohsin Estate, is paying Rs. 600 annually to the Daulatpur Hindu College?

(b) Is it a fact that many Muhammadan boys of the 1st year and 3rd year classes have left the said College owing to the alleged ill-treatment of them by the Hindu Professors?

(c) If so, how many boys have left the College?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state for what purposes the Mohsin grant is given to the College?

(e) Is it a fact that there is no Persian or Arabic Professor in the College and that the want of such a Professor causes great disadvantage to the Muhammadan boys?

(f) Is it a fact that previously the Muhammadan boys used to get impartial treatment in the College?

(g) Is it a fact that the attitude of the Hindu Professors towards the Muhammadan boys has recently become unfavourable?

(h) If the answer to (g) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes to discontinue the Mohsin grant to the College?

(i) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of deputing some responsible officer to inquire into the present condition of the College and into the sufferings and humiliation to which it is alleged the Muhammadan boys are being subjected?

(j) Are the Government considering the desirability of discontinuing the grant unless the lot of the Muhammadan boys is improved and a Persian Professor is appointed to the said College?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The District Officer reports after inquiry that it is not a fact that Muhammadan boys are ill-treated by the Hindu professors of the College. The number of Muhammadan students on the roll was greater in 1920-21 (49), 1921-22 (47), 1922-23 (41) and 1923-24 (38) than in any of the six preceding years. The decrease in the last two years is attributed to the opening of B.A. and I.Sc. classes at Bagerhat College in the same district, where the number of Muhammadans on the roll rose from 6 in March, 1922, to 89 in March, 1924. There is a Maulvi for the teaching of Persian and Arabic at the Bagerhat College, whereas the Daulatpur Hindu Academy is unable, owing to the terms of the deeds of Trust, to employ a Muhammadan on the staff.

(d) No part of the Mohsin Fund is granted to the College, but a contribution is made from the Syedpur Trust Estate for the upkeep of the institution on the understanding that the grant will continue so long as there are Muhammadan students in the College.

(e) Yes, for the reason stated in the answer to (b) and (c).

(f) and (g) There has been no change in the treatment accorded to Muhammadan students or in the attitude of Hindu professors towards them. As far as can be ascertained the attitude of the Professors was never unfavourable to Muhammadan students as such.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) and (j) In view of the report of the District Officer Government do not consider that any further inquiry is necessary. The advisability of continuing the grant is under consideration and, if necessary, a communication on the subject will be addressed to the Board of Revenue.

Muhammadans in the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.

30. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM CHOWDHURY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

- (i) the total number of teachers in the Sibpur Engineering College;
- (ii) the number of Muhammadans amongst them?

(b) If the answer to (ii) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of seats in the Sibpur Engineering College;
- (ii) the number of Muhammadan applicants for different branches during the last three years;
- (iii) the number of Muhammadans taken in;
- (iv) the total accommodation of the Sibpur Engineering Hostel;
- (v) the number of seats allotted to the Muhammadans during the years 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether there is any Muhammadan Superintendent for the Mussalman Hostel?

(e) If not, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ:

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| (a) (i) Principal and Professors, I. E. S. | ... | 9 |
| Teachers and Instructors, B. E. S. | ... | 6 |
| Lecturers and Demonstrators, S. E. S. | ... | 5 |
| Laboratory Assistants | ... | 5 |
| Foreman Instructors | ... | 4 |
| | | — |
| Total | .. | 29 |

(ii) There are no Muhammadans on the teaching staff at present.

(b) It has in the past been found very difficult to obtain Muhammadan candidates with the necessary technical qualifications, though it is hoped that this condition will not prevail in future.

(c) The number of seats allotted on admission to the First Year is as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| (i) Civil Engineering | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40 |
| Mechanical and Electrical Engineering | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35 |
| Mining | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25 |

The number of seats for the other years depends on the numbers passing at the annual examination.

| | | | 1923. | 1922. | 1921. |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (ii) | Civil Engineering | .. .. | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| | Mechanical and Electrical Engineering | .. .. | .. | 5 | 2 |
| | Mining | .. .. | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| (iii) | Civil Engineering | .. .. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Mechanical and Electrical Engineering | .. .. | .. | 3 | 1 |
| | Mining | .. .. | 2 | 1 | 2 |

(iv) Anglo-Indian—40; Hindu—250; Muhammadan—16.

| | | 1920. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (v) | Civil Engineering | .. 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| | Mechanical and Electrical Engineering | .. 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| | Mining | .. 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | .. 9 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 16 |
| | | — | — | — | — | — |

Admission letter to one Muhammadan student in the Mining class has been issued he will join in April.

(d) No.

(e) Owing to the absence of a Muhammadan on the staff. Formerly when a Muhammadan was employed, he was placed in charge of the hostel. Government propose to make every attempt to arrange for a restoration of former conditions in this respect.

Honorary Magistrates from Namasudra class.

31. Dr. MOHINI MOHON DAS: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state the number of Honorary Magistrates in Bengal?

(b) Is there any such Magistrate who belongs to the Namasudra class?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing Honorary Magistrates from the Namasudra class?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (a) The number of Honorary Magistrates in Bengal is 933.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) There is no objection to appointing Honorary Magistrates from the Namasudra class if by their education, public spirit and character they are found competent for the work.

Timings of trains and platforms of East Indian Railway.

32. Babu BORODA PRASAD DEY: Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works considering the desirability of inviting the attention of the authorities of the East Indian Railway administration to the following matters affecting local interests—

- (i) the timings of trains are not so arranged at the junction stations as to leave reasonable time for passengers of one train to board another after purchasing tickets, if necessary;
- (ii) alterations in the timings of trains are not published in the provincial newspapers of all languages with a view to inviting objections or suggestions from the public, and of then finally deciding the question in the light of such objections or suggestions;
- (iii) the station platforms in the Tarakeswar and the Katwa lines are not raised to the proper level so as to allow of sick and female passengers and children to enter the trains easily;
- (iv) the sub-way near the Mahesh John Nagor Road is not properly raised, and the level crossings in Chatra are not properly guarded?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:

(i) and (ii) Government do not propose to address the Agent of the Railway as there is an advisory committee through whom such matters may be brought to the notice of the Railway authorities.

(iii) and (iv) The attention of the Agent will be drawn to the subject-matter of the question.

Babu BORODA PRASAD DEY: May I know, Sir, how this august body—the Advisory Committee—may be approached?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: You will have to address the Secretary of the Committee.

Babu BORODA PRASAD DEY: Is there any Secretary of the Committee?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I presume so.

Appointment of a Muhammadan Subdivisional Officer at Comilla.

33. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department aware that one of the two Sadar Subdivisional Officers of Comilla was always a Muhammadan?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that Comilla is a Muhammadan centre?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that at present both the Subdivisional Officers are Hindus?

(d) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that one Subdivisional Officer is serving there for more than three years?

(e) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan Officer as Subdivisional Officer at Comilla?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) It is impossible to regulate appointments on communal consideration. Government have recently been trying to comply with the request that Muhammadan officers shall be provided at as many stations as possible. This object cannot be attained if several Muhammadan officers are stationed at the same place. There is already a Muhammadan Deputy Collector at Comilla.

Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill.

34. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state what steps have been taken to introduce the draft Bill for the amendment of the Tenancy Act, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: A Bill for the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act is under preparation.

Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill.

35. Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to place the proposed amendments to the Bengal Tenancy Act before the Standing Committee on Land Revenue?

(b) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that there is a widespread apprehension in the country that Government do not like to afford relief to the tenantry and have been advised to withhold the introduction of the Tenancy Act Amendment Bill from the Council?

(c) Is it a fact that in the last Council when some Members of the Council wanted the introduction of the Tenancy Bill, Government was pleased to inform the House that the Bill would be introduced after the general election?

(d) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state the reason for the delay in introducing the Bill?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

(a) and (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) On the 4th July, 1923, it was stated in answer to a question that Government were not considering the desirability of introducing the Bill during that year as there would be no time to put it through.

(d) After the publication of the report of the committee appointed to consider the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act, very many criticisms were received and it was found necessary to draft a fresh Bill. This is now under preparation.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state how many months and days the President of the Committee has taken over the preparation of his report and further to state when it is likely to be received?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

It is very difficult for me to say anything at the present moment but I can only say that the Bill is under consideration.

Alleged inconvenience of inhabitants of Banskhalī to attend Munsif's Court at Satkania.

36. Maulvi AMANAT KHAN: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the inhabitants of Banskhalī suffer the greatest difficulties in attending the Munsif's Court at Satkania?

(b) How many Munsifs are there at Satkania?

(c) Is it a fact that one of the Munsifs is maintained for Banskhalī?

(d) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of establishing a Munsif Court at Banskhalī, somewhere near Ramdas Munshi's Hât, instead of maintaining it at Satkania?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (a) Government have no information.

(b) There are two Munsifs at Satkania.

(c) There is no such exclusive arrangement for Banskhalī.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA: With regard to answer (a), may I ask the Hon'ble Member whether he would attempt to get some information on the subject that the inhabitants of Banskhalī find the greatest difficulty

in attending the Munsiff's court at Satkania? The answer given by the Hon'ble Member is that Government have no information.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I shall try to find out.

Guiding factors in determining cases for retrenchment.

37. Maulvi ABDUR RASCHID KHAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what are the guiding factors in determining cases of officers for retrenchment?

(b) What precautions are being taken to prevent favouritism?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) and (b) The Member is referred to Government Resolution No. 3108 A., dated the 16th March, 1923, which indicated generally the course of action to be adopted in dealing with officers whose posts were abolished as a result of retrenchment.

For detailed information the member should address himself to the departments concerned.

Increment in time-scale of pay.

38. Maulvi ABDUR RASCHID KHAN: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(i) whether in the time-scale of pay the increment accrues by right to the incumbent; and

(ii) what are the specific causes which would justify withholding increments?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: The member is referred to rule 24 of the Fundamental Rules.

Memorial from the Association of Agricultural and Sericultural Officers.

39. Maulvi ABDUR RASCHID KHAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether there is an Association of Agricultural and Sericultural Officers of the Department?

(b) Did they submit a memorial to the Government regarding their grievances and the working of the Department?

(c) If so, what action has been taken on it?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNABI:
(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The memorial is under the consideration of Government.

Indian Bar Committee's recommendations.

40. Maulvi MAHI UDDIN KHAN: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether any action is contemplated to be taken in the province of Bengal on the lines of recommendation of the Indian Bar Committee?

(b) If so, what is the action that is in contemplation?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (a) and (b) This is a matter for the decision of the Government of India.

Declaration of tracts within which section 76(b) of Bengal Act II of 1882 is to take effect.

41. Babu MAHENDRA NATH MAITY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the notifications issued from time to time under section 6 of the Bengal Embankment Act, 1882 (Bengal Act II of 1882), declaring the limits of tracts within which the provisions of clause (b) of section 76 of the said Act shall take effect, have produced any good result in scouring the bed of the rivers in Bengal?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in detail the result produced on each river, at least on rivers of the Midnapore district?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the results, if any, are the same in the case of large and broad rivers as in the case of narrow and small rivers?

(d) Are the Government considering the desirability of allowing people to close breaches in the existing private embankments and make repairs to damages caused to the said embankments by flood or excess rain water?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

(a) The notification of rivers under section 76(b) has undoubtedly produced good results in preventing deterioration of the rivers.

(b) It is impossible to state the exact amount of improvement which has been effected thereby. In regard to rivers, generally in the Midnapore district, it may be said that their condition is more or less steady. Had embankments been allowed everywhere and anywhere, there is not the least doubt that these rivers would have deteriorated and some of them would have been obliterated by this time.

(c) The effect of prohibiting embankments is, as a rule, more marked in the case of small rivers than in that of large rivers.

(d) There is nothing to prevent people closing breaches in private embankments and making repairs to them, provided no addition is made.

Discontinuance of Salt Mushahara payable to the Zamindar of Tamluk.

42. Babu MAHENDRA NATH MAITY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state when and why the payment was stopped of the annual Salt Mushahara of Rs. 14,691-8-7-3 Sicca payable by the Government to the descendants of Raja Ananda Narain Roy of Tamluk, the late Zamindar of the Tamluk Pargana, district Midnapore?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of restoring the payment of this Salt Mushahara to the descendants of Raja Ananda Narain Roy?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: (a) The Mushahara was payable to the Zamindar of Tamluk as salary for services rendered to Government in connection with the manufacture of salt by them. It ceased to be payable when manufacture was relinquished, and was discontinued in 1869.

(b) No.

Copyists and typists of courts.

43. Babu MAHENDRA NATH MAITY: (a) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the copyists who get half the value of the folios used in making copies, as their remuneration, are not paid half or any portion of the excess price of these folios due to the increase in the price of each folio from 3 annas to 4 annas?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of giving half of this excess price to their copyists?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (a) Copyists and typists were paid at the rate of 2 annas per folio when the price of each folio was 3 annas. Their remuneration has remained the same with the increase of its price to 4 annas. The extra anna realised has been devoted partly towards the establishment of a Provident Fund for their benefit to which Government contributes 1 anna for every anna subscribed by copyists and typists.

(b) The question of increasing the remuneration of copyists and typists is under consideration.

Re-excavation of Saraswati and Kana-Nadi.

44. Babu TARAKNATH MUKERJEE: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether there is any scheme for the re-excavation of the rivers Saraswati and Kana-Nadi in the districts of Howrah and Hooghly?

(b) If so, will the work be taken up soon?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

(a) Yes. The scheme is under the consideration of Government at the present moment.

(b) Work will be taken up when funds can be provided.

Alleged grievances of Jotedars of Jalpaiguri district.

45. Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state the result of the recent inquiry made by Mr. D. H. Lees, C.S.I., I.C.S., in the Government khas mahal land in the Western Duars of the Jalpaiguri district in respect of the alleged grievances of the tenants as set out in unstarred question No. 17 put by me in the last Council on the 15th August, 1923, and in the replies given thereto by the then Hon'ble Member of Land Revenue, the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, and in respect of the resolutions passed in an ordinary meeting by the tenants of the Duars, which were submitted to the said Mr. D. H. Lees on the 8th April, 1924?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: As the result of the inquiry made by the Hon'ble Member, Board of Revenue, orders are being issued as follows:—

(i) Clause 4 of the form of lease for use in jotes held under mal-jote leases granted subsequent to the promulgation of the Arable Waste Land Rules of 1888 is being modified so as to make it clear that transfers of jotes or shares of jotes may be made to persons intending to reside on or near the jote without the previous sanction of the Deputy Commissioner.

(ii) The practice of taking *salami* on transfers of jotes is being stopped.

(iii) Orders are being issued that no penalty shall be imposed for failure to register a transfer until after the expiry of two months from the date of transfer; and that, in cases in which a longer delay is satisfactorily explained, the penalty may be remitted.

(iv) To prevent hardship when land is acquired for public purposes, instructions are being issued that in cases of hardship the question of allowing compensation for the loss of land, in addition to the compensation allowed for buildings and crops, shall be referred to Government.

Application of two Members of Bengal Legislative Council for permission to manufacture salt.

46. Babu ABANISH CHANDRA RAY: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state what orders have been passed on the applications of Dr. J. M. Das

Gupta, M.L.C., and Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra, M.L.C., for permission to manufacture salt addressed to the Magistrates of Midnapore and Noakhali, respectively?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: The applications have not yet been submitted to Government.

Commissioner under Workmen's Compensation Act.

47. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

- (i) what steps the Government contemplate taking to appoint a Commissioner under section 20 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923); and
- (ii) what are the qualifications prescribed for the appointment?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE and INDUSTRIAL SUBJECTS (the Hon'ble Mr. T. Emerson): (i) Government propose to appoint, in the first stages of the administration of the Act, one whole-time Commissioner for the whole of the Presidency.

(ii) Experience as a Magistrate or Judge, especially in industrial areas in Bengal, combined with a knowledge of the law and practice relating to Workmen's Compensation in England.

Prosecutions under Factories Act.

48. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

- (i) how many prosecutions were launched under the amended Factories Act within the last six months; and
- (ii) what were the offences for which those prosecutions were instituted?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: (i) Twenty-five.

| | Cases. |
|---|--------|
| (ii) Under section 18 (3).—For not fencing machinery .. | 1 |
| Under section 22 (1).—For employing labour on Sunday contrary to the requirements of the Act. | 1 |
| Under section 23 (a).—For employing children without certificates. | 6 |
| Under section 23 (c).—For employing children for more than six hours in any one day. | 5 |
| Under section 24 (a).—for employing women before 5-30 A.M. | 2 |

| | Cases |
|---|-------|
| Under section 26.—For employing labour beyond specified hours. | 8 |
| Under section 34, Rule 71 of the Bengal Factories Rules, 1923.—For not reporting an accident. | 1 |
| Under Section 43 (a)—For wilfully obstructing the Inspector in the exercise of his power. | 1 |
| Total .. | 25 |

Translation and publication of Workmen's Compensation Act.

49. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce considering the desirability of publishing the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in vernacular for the information of workmen affected by the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. T. EMERSON: The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, has been translated into Bengali and copies of the translated Act are on sale at the Bengal Secretariat Book Depôt at Re. 1-2 per copy. The translation was published in the *Bangali*, *Basumati*, *Bangabasi* and the *Moslem Hitaishi*.

Cases of thefts and dacoities in Bakarganj.

50. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Police be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the year 1923-24—

- (i) the numbers of thefts and dacoities committed in the district of Bakarganj;
- (ii) the number of cases that were detected; and
- (iii) the names of the officers through whose tact and skill those cases were detected?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the officers referred to in (a) (iii) have been rewarded for their services?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether successful work on the part of these officers is duly considered in the matter of their promotion?

(d) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state whether the abilities and merits of the supervising and guiding officer are recognised, recorded and rewarded? If so, in what way?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (a) (i) and (ii) The figures for the year 1923 are as follows:—

Thefts reported, 923; detected, 220.

Burglaries reported, 2,703; detected, 69.

Dacoities reported, 35; detected, 16.

(iii) Government are not prepared to supply this information; it would not be in the interests of the Department to do so.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, by rewards and commendations and in exceptional cases by promotion.

Registers of births and deaths.

51. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) be pleased to state—

(i) whether the registers of births and deaths kept in all police-stations are destroyed after three years in this province; and

(ii) whether it is a fact that questions of age and of the dates of deaths frequently arise both in Civil and Criminal cases in this province?

(b) Are the Government considering the desirability of permanently preserving these registers?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:

(a) (i) The procedure for the preservation of these registers was not uniform. In some districts the registers were preserved permanently, while in others they were destroyed from time to time.

(ii) Yes.

(b) Instructions were issued in October, 1923, to maintain these registers for 30 years.

Number of suits in Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions.

52. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately for the last three years the number of title suits returned by the Munsifs of the Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions in the district of Bakarganj?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately for the last three years the number of rent

suits and money suits valued at above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 2,000 instituted in the court of the 1st Munsif, Barisal, from the jurisdiction of Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing a munsif having powers to try suits valued up to Rs. 2,000 to each of these subdivisions?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: (a) and (b) Statements are laid on the table.

(c) The matter will be considered.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 52, showing the number of title suits returned by the Munsifs of Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions in the district of Bakarganj during the last 3 years.

| Names of Munsifs. | | | | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|-------|-------|-------|
| Pirojpur | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 17 | 16 |
| Patuakhali | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 52, showing the number of rent and money suits valued at above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 2,000 instituted in the Munsif's 1st Court, Barisal from the jurisdiction of Pirojpur and Patuakhali subdivisions during the last 3 years.

| Names of Munsifs. | 1921. | | 1922. | | 1923. | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Rent. | Money. | Rent. | Money. | Rent. | Money. |
| Pirojpur | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 2 |
| Patuakhali | 13 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 7 |

Retrenchment Committee's recommendations regarding Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise.

53. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to paragraphs 19—22 of the Retrenchment Committee's Report?

(b) How many posts of Inspector and Sub-Inspector have been abolished as a result of the recommendations made in the said paragraphs?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether effect has been given in full to those recommendations?

(d) If effect has not been given in full, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this?

(e) Are the Government proposing to reconsider those recommendations?

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI:

(a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d) The recommendation of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee for the abolition of the special staff of 6 Inspectors, 25 Sub-Inspectors, etc., in paragraph 19 of their report was made under a misapprehension, as there was no such special staff of Salt Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. These officers belong to the regular staff in the amalgamated Excise and Salt Department and their numbers have been found to be the irreducible minimum required in the saliferous districts.

As regards the recommendation of the Committee for reduction in the number of Inspectors of Excise and Salt in paragraph 22 of their report, Government have accepted the principle that where the number of Sub-Inspectors did not exceed 10 there was no need to place one Inspector between them and the Superintendent of Excise. According to this principle the number of Inspectors was to be reduced by 9, but Government having decided with reference to paragraph 21 of the same report that excise work in 11 districts, instead of 3, should be in charge of Inspectors of Excise and Salt, the net reduction decided upon was only one post in the cadre of Inspectors. It has also been decided that these orders should be given effect to gradually by the retirement of officers who have attained 55 years of age or who have earned a retiring pension after 30 years' service and by the suspension of recruitment. Up to date 5 Superintendents have been replaced by Inspectors and the post of an Inspector has been abolished.

(e) The question does not arise.

Date of introduction of the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill.

54. Maulvi RAJIB UDDIN TARAFDAR: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Land Revenue be pleased to state whether, and, if so, when, the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill will be introduced in the Council?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: The Bill is under preparation, but will not be ready before next cold weather.

Agricultural loans to flood-affected people of Bogra.

55. Maulvi RAJIB UDDIN TARAFDAR: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state—

(i) the amount of donations and agricultural loan given to the flood-affected people of the Bogra district after the last heavy flood;

(ii) whether interest was realised for those loans; and

(iii) if so, what was the rate of such interest?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:

(i) A sum of Rs. 44,718 was spent on gratuitous relief, and loans amounting to Rs. 3,02,000 were granted.

(ii) and (iii) According to the rules, interest at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum has been or will be realized on the loans.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.**Demands for grants.**

The discussion on 41.—Civil Works was then resumed.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, we all know that Scotchmen are good as Financial Experts, but I find that Mr. Donald is very good in advocacy. There are certain matters in the Memorandum, which he has sent round, with which I think very few of us will have any quarrel; for instance, on page 2 he speaks about the wastage in rent. On the same page he remarks that most of the Police buildings are insanitary. I have practically visited every building in Calcutta in my professional capacity and I can say that they are insanitary. Assuming that this is so and that there is necessity for better sanitary arrangements for policemen, the question is how to raise the money for this building for the policemen. There are two proposals—one is to raise a loan and the other is to spend from the unspent balances of the year. What I wish to join voice with him about is that he says that, as the amount required for the service of the loan would be practically equivalent to the amount now paid in rent, there would thus be no actual saving in the annual charges of Government until the close of the thirty-year period. On page 2 he says that Rs. 1,44,000 will be saved on account of rents, and in addition the money that has to be spent for the purpose of repairs. Taking the whole sum together it will amount to Rs. 2,00,000. He rejects the question of raising a loan, because he says it is non-productive work, but two lines afterwards he says "but even apart from this principle the financing of this scheme from our balances will be really productive." What is non-productive in one sentence and becomes productive two sentences afterwards; it is for Mr. Donald to say how. Sir, we are told that we do not understand English sometimes, but here in one sentence he says that it is unremunerative and in another he says it is productive. Then the question is how to get the money for the purpose of the building. My proposition is that it would be better to take a loan rather than to meet the expenditure from the unspent balances. Mr. Donald says that by utilising our balances as against taking a loan, the saving is effected within two years as against 30 years. That is a proposition which is very difficult to understand because, while we do commit ourselves to 30 years, paying interest at the rate of about

Rs. 1,30,000 a year, we can utilise the balances for the improvement of the transferred subjects. Then the question is where are these balances. I say that these balances have been mortgaged three times over. Three years ago Sir John Kerr said that the money would be spent for transferred subjects. During the budget discussion this year Mr. C. R. Das raised the same question and asked for the raising of loans to meet the requirements of the transferred departments. I submit that practically there is no balance. The best way, I think, is to get these buildings for the policemen by raising a loan. There is another proposition which I would suggest to Mr. Donald. There is one sentence on page 4 of his memorandum in which it is said that the northern portion of the Alms House has been sold to the Calcutta Corporation for Rs. 2,88,000. I say why not spend this sum and an additional Rs. 50,000 for the purchase of land and then ask some contractors to build on it, giving them some concessions in the shape of long contracts and low interest.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The time is up.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I want to make a suggestion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But the time-limit for this demand is over. Dr. Roy has taken the full 7 minutes left.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY. If you had pulled me up earlier I would have stopped.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But you were entitled to speak for 15 minutes and I could not stop you.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I simply desire to make a suggestion. It is this: that if these demands for Police buildings be passed by the Council out of the money in the surplus balances, about Rs. 17½ lakhs will be earmarked for the purposes of subjects other than those under the Members of the Executive Council.

Mr. C. R. DAS: If Mr. Donald would accept the suggestion that the Rs. 17,50,000 which is proposed to be spent for subjects of the transferred departments should be put in the hands of a committee elected by the House, then we can accept his proposal. Simply earmarking Rs. 17,50,000 for transferred subjects is too vague.

Mr. PRESIDENT: As a result of yesterday's voting, there are not going to be any transferred subjects.

Mr. C. R. DAS: But the result has not yet been declared. How can we take notice of what has not been declared.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am afraid there will be no Ministers after to-day.

Mr. C. R. DAS: But how can we act without knowing the result? That depends on the Government and not on us. It depends upon the legal advice the Government get.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I said subjects other than those under the Members of the Executive Council. I cannot accept the condition that this money should be handed over to a committee.

The motion of Kumar Shib Shekharewar Ray was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Tayebuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Zanneer.
Ali, Maulvi Sayyed Sultan.
Bagohi, Babu Romes Chandra.
Banerjee, Dr. Pramathanath.
Banerjee, Babu Satya Kishore.
Banerjee, Mr. A. C.
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.
Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes.
Chakravorti, Babu Jogindra Chandra.
Chakravorty, Babu Sudarsan.
Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq.
Chaudhury, Maulvi Salyed Abdur Rob.
Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra.
Das, Dr. Mohini Mohon.
Das, Mr. C. R.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra.
Dey, Babu Boroda Presad.
Gafur, Maulvi Abdul.
Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Haldar, Mr. S. N.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hoque, Maulvi Sayedal.
Hossain, Maulvi Wahed.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Joardar, Maulvi Aftab Hossain.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.
Khan, Maulvi Abdur Rasheed.

Khan, Maulvi Amanat.
Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin.
Mahammad, Maulvi Basar.
Maitly, Babu Mahendra Nath.
Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Mitra, Babu Satyendra Chandra.
Mukerjee, Babu Taraknath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Neogi, Babu Manmehon.
Quader, Maulvi Abdul.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra.
Ray, Babu Anilbaran.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekharewar.
Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Satoowripati.
Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.
Roy, Mr. D. N.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar.
Sarker, Babu Naliniranjana.
Sarkar, Maulvi Adlah Buksh.
Sasmal, Mr. B. N.
Sen, Mr. N. C.
Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin.

NOES.

Addams-Williams, Mr. C.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Beg, Khan Bahadur Mirza Shuja'at Ali.
Choinuddin, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazal Karim.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Cooper, Mr. C. G.
Corcoran, Mr. B. J.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Babu Charu Chandra.
Dey, Mr. C. G.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.

Dutt, Mr. C. S.
Eddie, Mr. D. E. O.
Emerson, the Hon'ble Mr. T.
Farooqui, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan.
Godfrey, Sir George.
Goenka, Babu Badridas.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Guha, Mr. P. N.
Haq, Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul.
Heard, Major General R.
Hossain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharruf.
Huq, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazul.
James, Mr. F. E.

Jameson, Mr. A. K.
 Khaitan, Babu Debi Prosad.
 Lal Mahammad, Hajl.
 Law, Raja Reshee Case.
 Liddell, Mr. H. C.
 Marr, Mr. A.
 Masih, Mr. Syed M.
 Moberly, Mr. A. N.
 Moreno, Dr. H. W. B.
 Oaten, Mr. E. F.
 Phelps, Mr. T. J.
 Philip, Mr. J. Y.
 Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur.

Rahman, Mr. A. F.
 Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan.
 Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur
 Kshaunish Chandra.
 Roy, Mr. S. N.
 Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhuan.
 Roy Chaudhury, Babu Brajendra Kishore.
 Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.
 Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
 Travers, Mr. W. L.
 Villiers, Mr. Edward.
 Woodhead, Mr. J. A.

The Ayes being 62 and the Noes 56, the motion was carried.

The motion of the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi was not put as it was covered by the foregoing decision of the Council.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be voted under the head "41.—Civil Work" for houses of detention in Calcutta and Howrah.

The following motions were called but not moved:—

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER, SHAH SYED EMDADUL HUQ, Babu MANMATHA NATH ROY, Mr. D. N. ROY, Babu AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, and Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,50,000 under the head '41.—Civil Works' for houses of detention in Calcutta and Howrah, be refused."

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,50,000 under the head '41.—Civil Works' for houses of detention in Calcutta and Howrah, be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The motion of the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi was then put and agreed to.

55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works (not charged to Revenue).

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur: I move that a sum of Rs. 59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (not charged to Revenue)" in connection with the payment of enhanced compensation for land acquisition, Grand Trunk Canal Project.

I understand that a memorandum has been circulated setting forth the details and I have nothing further to add.

The following motion was called but not moved :—

Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA, Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY, Maulvi Md. NURUL HUQ CHAUDHURY, and Mr. D. N. ROY: “That the demand for Rs. 59,000 under the head ‘55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (not charged to Revenue)’ in connection with the payment of enhanced compensation for land acquisition, Grand Trunk Canal Project, be refused.”

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 59,000 under the head “55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (not charged to Revenue)” in connection with the Grand Trunk Canal Project, be reduced by Re. 1. My object in bringing this motion is to know the position of Government in respect to the Grand Trunk Canal Project.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Before I enter into the merits of the amendment permit me on behalf of the landlords of Bengal to accord our heartiest welcome to the Hon’ble Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia on his appointment as the Member in charge of the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal. This is a branch of administration for which our community has a special aptitude by instinct and by tradition and it is in the fitness of things that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to select one of the premier landlords of Bengal as its head. Sir, the zamindars of Bengal rejoice at the selection and we gratefully appreciate the fact that it is an honour to the entire zamindar community. I pray to God that the Maharaja will justify his appointment and maintain the high traditions of his exalted office as well as of the community to which he belongs.

Now, Sir, coming to the motion I have nothing further to add to what has been said by the previous speakers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: An excellent speech, Kumar Sahib.

The motion of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon’ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur was then put and agreed to.

Report of Committee on Public Accounts, 1922-23.

The Hon’ble Mr. T. EMERSON: I have the honour to lay before the Council the reports of the Bengal Legislative Committee on Public Accounts on the Audit and Appropriation Reports for the year 1922-23 and to move that the excesses mentioned therein under the major heads be granted.

The motion that the excesses mentioned in the reports of the Bengal Legislative Committee on Public Accounts on the Audit and Appropriation Reports for the year 1922-23 under the major heads be granted was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1924.

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:
I do not want to introduce the Bill.

The Bill not being introduced the following motions were not put:—

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:
to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHAUDHURI Bahadur to move
that in clause 2 of the Bill to the proposed sub-section (8) in section 20,
the following be added, namely:—

“ Provided that this shall not in any way affect any contract
entered into *bonâ fide* between the landlord and tenant for
the purpose of reclamation or in the land reclaimed by the
landlord.”

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur:
to move that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

The Howrah Bridge Bill, 1924.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZNAVI:
I beg to introduce a Bill to provide for the construction, maintenance
and control of a new bridge across the river Hooghly between Calcutta
and Howrah.

It has received the previous sanction of the Governor-General and
has been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

I would remind the members of this Council that the subject of
replacing the present Howrah Bridge by a new one has been under dis-
cussion since the year 1909. The present bridge was completed in
December, 1874, and opened to traffic in February, 1875. It had there-
fore been in existence for 34 years when the necessity for its replace-
ment first arose. Since then 15 years have passed during which the
structure of the bridge has rapidly deteriorated, and a new bridge which
was then considered to be necessary has now become an urgent question,
to be treated with expedition if the City of Calcutta is to avoid the
possibility of being left without a bridge at all.

During the 15 years various Committees have been constituted,
and have made recommendations which for one reason or another have
been rejected or put aside.

In the year 1921 a new factor entered the field. This was the ques-
tion of the necessity or otherwise of providing an opening span in the

bridge to permit sea-going vessels to pass it. A Committee investigated this point and reported that an opening span was not essential and that it might be omitted. The result of this recommendation was to open afresh the question of the type of bridge to be constructed. Till then the generally accepted opinion of engineers had been that a floating bridge offered facilities for providing an opening span which were not possessed by any type of fixed bridge with a clear span from shore to shore of the river Hooghly.

The new factor in the problem allowed of the reconsideration of various types of bridge which had from time to time been suggested, and in November, 1921, another Committee, over which Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee presided, was constituted to recommend to Government the form of bridge which should be constructed.

In 1922 this Committee after due consideration, and after weighing the merits and demerits of all types, recommended a cantilever bridge, with a clear span from bank to bank of the river in order to avoid obstruction to river traffic.

A rough estimate of the cost of such a bridge was obtained from the Consulting Engineer to the Secretary of State for India and in October, 1922, an officer of the Public Works Department was deputed to examine the project and give an estimate of its total cost including the cost of approaches, land and compensation for buildings and for the interests of docking companies.

When his figures had been obtained still another Committee was formed to examine and recommend measures for financing the scheme, and this Committee submitted its report in June, 1923.

Government have embodied the recommendations of all these Committees in the Bill which is now before the House and I think that members will realise that they have not framed it without very serious consideration of the requirements of the City of Calcutta.

This Bill now before the House is to provide by means of taxation, the amount of money required to build a cantilever bridge which Government are advised is the best type to meet the case. When the Bill is referred to a Select Committee it will be for that Committee to decide "what amount of money" can be spent on the bridge, that is, the amount of money which they consider to be within the taxable capacity of Calcutta for the purpose. Having come to a decision on this point they will make a recommendation to the Council who can then decide to accept or reject the Committee's recommendation. When the amount which the Council is prepared to agree to, is decided, it will be time to consider what form of bridge can be built for the money.

Leaving aside the superiority of any particular form of bridge, it is now for the members of this Council to consider a measure to finance a project for providing a new bridge in place of the existing one, which is admittedly past its work.

That there is urgency to do so is, I think, also generally admitted.

The present bridge is being tinkered and patched as demands require but the time must come, and come very quickly now, when temporary measures to keep an old bridge in serviceable condition will not suffice.

I press, therefore, with all the emphasis at my command, that the Council should facilitate the passage of a Bill to provide a bridge through the stages through which it must pass before it can become law.

Even after this, or any modified form of Bill is passed by the Council it will still take 3 or 4 years to bring a new bridge into being, and meanwhile the present one may cease to exist.

Should you disagree with the provisions of the Bill before you on the supposition that some less costly form of bridge will meet the case, or in the conviction that the burden of taxation to be imposed is too great to be borne, the remedy still lies in your hands.

After introduction the next stage will be the circulation of the Bill for public opinion. The opinions received will then be considered by the Select Committee, to which I shall presently ask your permission to refer the Bill. If that permission is accorded the Select Committee will not sit till at least 3 months' time has been given for collecting opinions.

After consideration in Select Committee the members will have a further opportunity for discussion and amendment, when the report of the Committee is presented to the Council.

It will, therefore, be patent to every one that the members of the Council will have ample opportunity to voice their views and, if they consider it desirable to pass the Bill in a considerably amended form.

What I do wish to impress on you is that any further delay that may be caused, either by deferring discussion or by rejecting the Bill *in toto*, is fraught with grave consequences which may fall suddenly on the inhabitants of Calcutta and relegate the premier City of India to a lowly position which would be little to her taste. As an illustration of the consequences of delay I may say that we have now before us an inquiry from the Howrah Bridge Commissioners whether the new bridge will be in commission in the course of the next 5 or 6 years.

If so, it will be necessary to spend immediately a sum of over 4 lakhs of rupees to replace worn out parts of the present bridge.

If the passage of the Bill is likely to be delayed, with a consequent delay in constructing the bridge, it will be necessary to spend 7 lakhs instead of 4.

Now the Council may say it does not effect them if the Howrah Bridge Commissioners have to spend those large sums, but I assure

you it does, for this expenditure eventually falls on the taxpayer of whom you are the representatives.

The responsibility for passing or rejecting this Bill will now rest on your shoulders and in your future dealings with it I ask you to bear in mind that it is not a measure to be treated lightly, or to be opposed without very sufficient reasons but that it is a serious question to be considered on its merits in its relation to the vital necessities of Calcutta, which depends for her prosperity and welfare largely on the efficiency of her communications with the rest of India.

The Government of Bengal have done their share by eliciting the opinions of experts on the practical and financial aspects of the questions and placing those opinions before you for your consideration. They are further prepared to contribute towards the cost of the bridge. The rest they must leave to you. You are the representatives of the people who must decide what is best for their interests, and on you must rest the responsibility for your decision whatever it may be.

MR. PRESIDENT: Hand in your Bill, please, Mr. Ghuznavi.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZNAVI:

I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald, Mr. G. G. Dey, Mr. H. C. Liddell, Mr. J. A. Woodhead, Sir George Godfrey, Mr. C. R. Das, Mr. S. Mahboob Aley, Mr. W. C. Currie, Babu Surendra Nath Ray, Babu Badridas Goenka and the mover with instructions to submit their report for presentation to the Council as soon as possible, the quorum to consist of 5 members.

MR. PRESIDENT: I understand that Mr. Das does not wish to serve on the Select Committee. So you need not include his name in the list.

MR. C. R. DAS: No, not on this committee.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZNAVI: Very well.

Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA: I move that the following names be added to the names proposed, namely:—Mr. C. R. Das, Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Raja Reshee Case Law, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, Babu Khagendra Nath Ganguly, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Babu Bijoy Krishna Bose, Babu Taraknath Mukerjea, Babu Satyendra Nath Mitra, Mr. A. C. Banerjee, Mr. N. C. Sen and Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq Chaudhury.

MR. PRESIDENT: You practically double the number of names that are in the original list, without notice.

Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA: I submit, Sir, that it is the recognised custom that in appointing committees the strength of parties represented in the Council should be taken into consideration. I think, Sir, it is the approved custom in all public bodies. The Government element in the proposed Select Committee is not inconsiderable, Sir, and I wish to add the new names only by way of representing the adequate strength of public opinion thereon.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not putting it from that point of view. My point of view is that you originally gave notice of 7 new names as in the list of business, but now you bring forward 6 more new names on the paper. I do not understand why you now submit these new names without notice. You thereby take the House by surprise.

Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA: In that case, Sir, if you disapprove, I shall be content to stand by my original amendment, viz. :—

That for the names of “ Mr. B. Mahboob Aley, Babu Surendra Nath Ray and Mr. W. C. Currie ” the following names be substituted, namely :—

“ Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, Babu Khagendra Nath Ganguly, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Babu Taraknath Mukerjea and Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq Chaudhury.”

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not rule out your amendment but the observations you have just made would have justified you in putting 30 names on paper in the first instance. What I want is an explanation from you as to your reason for the addition of the new names. Please let me know the considerations which led you to this action.

Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA: After more mature consideration, I thought I might add the new names to make the committee more representative. If I am not permitted to add all the names, however, I would like to add only 3 names.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not know what you mean by not being permitted. I only ask you to give your reasons for submitting these new names without notice. There is no question of refusal at all.

Babu DEBI PRASAD KHAITAN: May I have your permission to say a few words, Sir, on the proposal of Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra? Perhaps the reason why he has suggested the addition of 7 more new names to those that are already in the printed agenda paper is that the Select Committee will go into the whole question of the amount of money to be spent on the erection of the bridge—which is in itself a very important question—as well as into the question of the

type of bridge which will be suitable. Already there exists a great deal of controversy on these two points and also on the question of the taxable capacity of the people of Calcutta and I believe, Sir, that if the Select Committee is made as large as is suggested by my friend, then the passage of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee will become easier in this House. So I cannot understand why my hon'ble friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, should have any objection to accepting the list given by the mover, without any omission. As I have said, Sir, it will perhaps facilitate the ultimate passage of the Bill through this House.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: May I make a remark, Sir? Having had a great deal of experience I think it is not a question of party politics. It is a question involving the interests of commerce, trade, railways and other matters. So this committee should have on it representatives of these interests.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: We should also take into consideration the taxable capacity of the people; people's representatives must be on it also.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: When 23 people sit on a committee it is not possible to come to a final decision quickly. The committee would become very unwieldy.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I do not see why Mr. Donald should think it a party question. Raja Reshee Case Law does not belong to our party.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Donald was replying to the observations of Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra that he wanted his party to be represented.

Mr. C. R. Das: May I point out that he has also included names of gentlemen who do not belong to our party?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I quite see that.

Mr. C. R. DAS: I was merely pointing out that Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy's remarks are applicable.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN GHUZNAVI: It will make the committee much too unwieldy. However, Sir, I am prepared to accept the new names.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Thirteen being an unlucky number, might I not be permitted to suggest the addition of another name, the name of Mr. Band, to make the number 14?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do you object to this addition, Satyendra Babu?

Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA MITRA: Yes.

Mr. W. C. CURRIE: May I move an amendment that the names of Mr. Morgan, Mr. Band and Mr. Philip be added to the list of the members of the Select Committee who are to report on this Bill? The committee will have to consider not only the initial cost of the bridge but also the total annual charge for interest, sinking fund and maintenance, etc. The sinking fund annual charges will be a charge mainly on the trade of Calcutta, and, therefore, I think that the addition of the three gentlemen as above will be of advantage in that they have a considerable amount of experience of the trade of Calcutta.

The following motion was called but not moved:—

Babu ABANISH CHANDRA ROY to move that for the names “Mr. H. C. Liddell, Mr. J. A. Woodhead, Sir George Godfrey, Mr. S. Mahboob Aley, Mr. W. C. Currie and Babu Badridas Goenka” the following names be substituted, namely:—

“Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Babu Khagendra Nath Ganguly, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and Babu Taraknath Mukherjea.”

The motion of Babu Satyendra Chandra Mitra was put and agreed to.

The motion of Mr. W. C. Currie, that the names of Messrs. G. Morgan, R. N. Band and J. Y. Philip be added to the names in the original motion as amended by the previous motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addams-Williams, Mr. C.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Band, Mr. R. N.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panohanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Beg, Khan Bahadur Mirza Shuja'at Ali,
Carey, Sir Willoughby.
Choinuddin, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazal Karim.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Cooper, Mr. C. G.
Corcoran, Mr. B. J.
Currie, Mr. W. C.
Das, Babu Charu Chandra.
Dey, Mr. C. G.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. G. S.
Eddis, Mr. B. E. G.
Emerson, the Hon'ble Mr. T.
Farouqi, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.

Chuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu
Ahmed Khan.
Godfrey, Sir George.
Goenka, Babu Badridas.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Gordon, Mr. A. D.
Guha, Mr. P. N.
Haq, Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul.
Heard, Major General R.
Hossain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharruf.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Huq, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazlul.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jameson, Mr. A. K.
Khalitan, Babu Dabi Prosad.
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.
Lal Mahammad, Haji.
Law, Raja Reshee Case.
Liddell, Mr. H. C.
Marr, Mr. A.
Masih, Mr. Syed M.
Mitter, Sir Provash Chunder.
Moberly, Mr. A. N.

Moreno, Dr. H. W. B.
 Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra.
 Oaten, Mr. E. F.
 Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
 Phelps, Mr. T. J.
 Philip, Mr. J. Y.
 Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-
 Rahman, Mr. A. F.
 Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan.
 Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur
 Kshaunish Chandra.
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.

Roy, Mr. S. N.
 Roy, Mr. Tarit Bhushan.
 Roy, Raja Maniloli Singh.
 Roy Chaudhury, Babu Brajendra Kishore.
 Saïam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
 Sen, Mr. N. C.
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.
 Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
 Travers, Mr. W. L.
 Villiers, Mr. Edward.
 Woodhead, Mr. J. A.

NOES.

Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin.
 Ahmed, Maulvi Zannoor.
 Ali, Mr. Aïtaf.
 Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra.
 Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
 Banerjee, Mr. A. C.
 Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.
 Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes.
 Chakravorti, Babu Jogindra Chandra.
 Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra.
 Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
 Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq.
 Chaudhury, Maulvi Saiyed Abdur Rob.
 Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra.
 Das, Dr. Mohini Mohon.
 Das, Mr. C. R.
 Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
 Dey, Babu Boroda Prosad.
 Cafur, Maulvi Abdul.
 Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath.
 Haldar, Mr. S. N.
 Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
 Hoque, Maulvi Sayedal.
 Hossain, Maulvi Wahed.
 Joardar, Maulvi Aftab Hossain.
 Khan, Maulvi Abdur Raschid.

Khan, Maulvi Amanat.
 Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin.
 Mohammad Maulvi Basar.
 Maitty, Babu Mahendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Saiyendra Chandra.
 Mukerjea, Babu Taraknath.
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
 Neogi, Babu Manmohon.
 Quader, Maulvi Abdul.
 Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
 Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra.
 Ray, Babu Anilbaran.
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
 Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.
 Roy, Babu Satcowripati.
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.
 Roy, Mr. D. N.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar.
 Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan.
 Sarkar, Maulvi Afiah Buksh.
 Sasmal, Mr. B. N.
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.
 Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin.

The Ayes being 67 and the Noes 52, the motion was carried.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: I move that the Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion.

In rising to move that the Howrah Bridge Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion, I would at the outset refer to a matter which appears to me somewhat curious. The present Howrah Bridge is being administered by the authorities of the Port of Calcutta and all the steps so far taken to replace it by a more suitable one have been taken by the Reserved Department, under the head of "Marine." In fact the present Bill was drafted and published over the name of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald and only very recently has it been handed over to the Transferred Department of the Hon'ble Mr. Ghuznavi thereby treating it, as a local means of communication, etc., without any wider commercial significance. This is hardly consistent with the vital character of its connection with the Port of Calcutta in which view it is properly a central subject and the Government of India ought to be fastened with its construction. And it seems pretty clear to me,

that it is in order to avoid this proper view that the Hon'ble Mr. Ghuznavi has suddenly been put on the saddle though the reins remain in the hands of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald.

Now, Sir, coming to the subject-matter of the Bill, apart from the intrinsic merits and demerits of a cantilever bridge, the estimated cost of Rs. 6,34,00,000 is out of all proportions to the requirements and entirely beyond the capacity of the people of this country already overburdened to the point of death; and on this ground of prohibitive cost alone we should at once dismiss the idea of going in for a spectacular bridge worthy of Calcutta dreamt of by onlookers who have no burden to bear. There are alternative schemes which may very well suit our present requirements costing not more than Rs. 3 crores. This, therefore, is eminently a matter deserving of serious public consideration and public opinion should be sought and received before any attempt to arrive at a final decision.

Having determined the cost which the country is prepared to bear the question of suitable financial adjustment should next be considered. The scheme of taxation embodied in the Bill is not at all equitable and requires readjustment. The people of Calcutta are, as I have said already, overtaxed, and cannot go in for the luxury of spectacular effect. On the other hand, the Government of India who derive about Rs. 16 crores a year from Custom Revenue from the Port of Calcutta has not been put down for a single farthing of contribution. If a bridge at a cost of Rs. 3 crores is decided upon and if its life be taken at 60 years about Rs. 16 lakhs per annum may serve the necessary purpose and I venture to think that the Local and Central Governments, the Railway and Steamer Companies and the Calcutta Improvement Trust could between them contribute an annual amount sufficient to enable the tax on the people of Calcutta and its suburbs to be altogether dispensed with.

Next, Sir, it has been proposed to entrust the work of the construction of the bridge to the Trustees of the Improvement Trust of Calcutta. If the present position of the Calcutta Improvement Trust be carefully analysed it will be found that a trust which can lock up about a crore in a fancy housing scheme at Cossipore, under which up till now not more than one person has been given an allotment, should easily be able to contribute say Rs. 5 to 6 lakhs a year to meet an urgent necessity such as this bridge.

These are some of the points which point to the desirability of the Bill being circulated before being referred to the Select Committee. It would surely be less than wise to hurry on with a piece of legislation before the material principles on which it should be based have been adequately discussed and settled. I find it difficult to believe that the Select Committee suggested by the Hon'ble Minister in charge will either care for or be able to gauge the real opinion of the public.

An important public body, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, has opposed the construction of such a costly bridge and as a humble worker on that body I assure the House that if the Bill be circulated as proposed, we shall make it a point speedily to collect and present the best available opinion on the point.

I have a shrewd suspicion, Sir, that the idea of thrusting on us such an expensive cantilever bridge has been mooted with the idea of relieving a portion of the unemployment problem in England a suspicion which is confirmed by the fact that tenders for such a large piece of work have not been invited from any country outside England. The question of unemployment, however, is no less keen in India. In fact, it is fast assuming alarming proportions. If a portion of the money proposed to be raised by taxation be diverted to the establishment of a factory or workshop which will turn out materials for the construction of such bridges and other works such as are found necessary for the purposes of developing the country's resources, that would have the incidental effect of affording scope for the training of thousands of our young men.

Sir, the time has most assuredly come when we should not take a detached view of things like these, but look on them as vital parts of a larger programme of national reconstruction.

Lastly, Sir, the acceptance of the proposal of this cantilever bridge will mean an additional tax on every ticket purchased by daily passengers who are mostly impecunious clerks and indigenous traders. This will be a crushing addition to their expenses, and should not be lightly imposed upon them.

I think I have said enough, Sir, to make out an unanswerable case for my proposals and I can assure the House that in the meantime the existing bridge however "mean and insignificant in appearance" and however "unworthy of Calcutta" will not given way under sheer pressure of bureaucratic impatience.

[At this stage the Council was adjourned for 10 minutes.]

[After the adjournment.]

Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: The motion before the House raises the question as to whether the Howrah Bridge Bill should at this stage be referred to the Select Committee or whether it should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Bill has delivered a warning and a threatening speech in favour of the proposition that the Bill should be referred to the Select Committee at once, otherwise there may not be a bridge between Calcutta and Howrah. As I understand his speech, he further said that this threat has been hanging over the heads of Calcutta and Howrah for the last 15 years, and that Government have been engaged upon several inquiries into the question for the last 15 years, and it is only now

when the Bill is before the Council at the last stage, that the Hon'ble Minister thinks, or in the alternative is made to think, that unless the proposal is passed for the immediate construction of a new bridge, there may be no traffic between Calcutta and Howrah, except by means of boats. When the Committee to consider the question of cost sat, it will be remembered by several members of this House that almost every Indian member of that Committee strongly and emphatically objected to the expenditure of so large an amount as 6 crores of rupees over the building of a new bridge. The arguments put forward by the members in that Committee amounted to this, that the taxable capacity of the people had almost been exhausted and that money was required for more urgent reasons than a luxurious bridge between Calcutta and Howrah. Expert opinion is unanimous on the question that a new bridge is required, but there are two alternative propositions, one to have a cantilever type of bridge at a cost of 6 crores of rupees, and the other a floating type of bridge at a cost of 3 crores of rupees. Now it is well known that money is very urgently required for the spread of education, better sanitary measures and the development of agriculture and industries. Whenever money has been demanded from the Finance Department for these purposes, we have always met with the reply that no money was available; but when a project of that costly bridge between Howrah and Calcutta is contemplated, we find that it is said by the Finance Department that money could be made easily available, and that we could place our orders in England for the speedy import of materials for the purpose of having a cantilever type of bridge. This kind of argument I cannot appreciate, and I cannot understand why, if money could be raised for the purpose of a bridge, it could not be raised earlier for the other measures so urgently required for the benefit of the people at large. The Indians say that we are satisfied with a floating type of bridge at a cost of 3 crores of rupees. I cannot appreciate why the official mind is prepared to shake off public opinion in this manner. It is well known that the Calcutta Corporation, which is asked to contribute to the extent of 1 per cent. on the rateable value of land in Calcutta, cannot find funds for itself for more useful schemes, such as the spread of education, the adoption of sanitary measures and other urgent schemes of a similar nature. It is simply because the Calcutta Corporation has no money and fears that fresh taxation cannot be imposed on the people, that these beneficial projects cannot be taken in hand. It is very necessary that the public should be consulted in this matter. It is the public who are entitled to say whether they want a bridge of the cantilever type costing about 6 crores of rupees, or a floating type of bridge costing about 3 crores or any other type of bridge which experts might advise the public can be put up at a lower or a higher cost. It is the public who are concerned in the matter, it is the public who will have to pay the cost, it is the public who will have to use the bridge, and it is the public,

therefore, who should, I think, have the foremost voice in the matter as regards what type of bridge and at what cost it should be made. I cannot understand why there should be any opposition to the motion before the House. I fully remember the Hon'ble Minister said when he moved the motion, that the Select Committee will not sit for another three months, and that period can be conveniently utilised for the collection of public opinion. If the Hon'ble Minister is satisfied that public opinion ought to be taken, and that the Select Committee will not sit for another three months, I do not see why this amendment should not be accepted at this stage, and why the motion for reference to the Select Committee should not be brought forward again in this Council at the end of three months, because after considering public opinion the House will be in a better position to say whether this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee or a fresh Bill, an entirely fresh Bill, framed. There is the further doubt in the minds of several members of this House as to whether the Committee will have the power to recommend another type of bridge or not. It is stated in the statement of objects and reasons that a cantilever type of bridge will be constructed at a cost of 6 crores of rupees. There is a doubt in the minds of some of the members of this House, if this Bill is referred to the Select Committee at this stage, when this statement has been made in the statement of objects and reasons, whether the Select Committee will have the power to recommend any other type of bridge at a lower amount of cost for its construction. That is my view, but at any rate I do not see any reason for departing from the position that the public should be consulted, and should be given every opportunity of expressing its views on this very important question.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I do not agree with the amendment nor would I purposely do anything that would postpone the starting of this very important work, but, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Ghuznavi, in introducing the Bill, pointed out that the Committee, in 1922, after careful consideration of the merits and demerits of all types, recommended a cantilever bridge with a clear span from bank to bank of the river, in order to avoid obstruction to river traffic, and a rough estimate was given. The price given was exorbitant, and the fact that sufficient information from the expert world bridge builders had not been received, convinces me that the matter wants to be thoroughly gone into once more.

It is advisable, before committing the province to the enormous expenditure estimated, to investigate the design of the proposed bridge and obtain the opinion of expert bridge builders and ascertain if the vast sum estimated could not be reduced, and at the same time an efficient and substantial bridge, with a beauty of outline, erected.

Primarily closing of the upper half of the river for all time is a most serious measure, the responsibility of which should not be left to the local

officials in temporary authority and adopted without very careful investigation.

The piers at each bank of the design of the cantilever bridge will carry an enormous weight which the nature of the soil has not been proved as suitable to support.

The structure has also to contend with wind pressure, which a lower structure with reduced spans would minimise. The cost of construction would be considerably enhanced with the long spans and the heavy material.

Although only one proposed design for the cantilever bridge has been put forward, there are other schemes on the same principle which might be designed, achieving a vast saving.

There have been too few designs. For instance, a large number of designs were submitted for the contract of the bridge over the Sydney Harbour and the successful contracting firm actually submitted seven different designs.

In 1922, a Canadian-born Engineer, Dr. J. A. L. Waddell, visited Calcutta, and offered his services to assist the Committee in their deliberations, but they were not accepted. This gentleman has designed a bridge to meet all exigencies, the cost of which would be £2,000,000. Dr. Waddell is a Bridge Engineer of many years' experience, and has designed important bridges all over the world, yet advantage was not taken of his proffered advice. The design of the bridge (of one type only) has been left to comparative amateurs.

The present site of the bridge may be retained, thereby saving the best part of £1,000,000, and the present bridge floated down-stream 50 yards away. All this is worthy of careful consideration, and the world's best opinion should be obtained before the province is committed to a vast expenditure for erecting a bridge that does not fulfil all exigencies.

One way in which the cost of the bridge might be considerably reduced is to lessen the span.

An eminent Engineer who visited Calcutta says:—"I know absolutely that two piers in the channel, properly designed, would not in any way upset the regime of the river. Calcutta needs a permanent structure at a reasonable cost, which cannot be obtained if a 1,500 feet span is put in."

With reference to the placing of piers in the river, Mr. Basil Mott, a distinguished English Engineer, who visited Calcutta to advise Government, recommended the construction of a one-span bridge and a 200-feet opening span of the Scherzer type. He says that in the event of the cost of constructing such a bridge would be considered prohibitive, he recommended a bridge of piers of six main steel girders on screw pile abutments and open pile work piers with an open span. This was after a complete study of the spot and of the conditions of the river.

Without an opening span, the bridge has to be raised to allow of ordinary craft to pass at high tides, rendering the structure top-heavy and entailing permanent high gradients. Also the land anchorage spans have to be lengthened and the cost of approaches increased.

The following is an extract from a recent issue of an editorial of a technical paper dealing with "Tube railways for Calcutta." The right bank of the Hooghly with its railway termini is plainly the most convenient site for all transfers from the railways to the shipping, and the loading plant for coal export and for seeds and for other bulky products should naturally be on the right bank above the existing bridge site, where wharves could be cheaply built and equipped for the purpose." The paper emphasises the folly of cutting off this valuable piece of foreshore from sea-going vessels by building a low level fixed bridge across the river, as now proposed.

The cantilever scheme, including approaches, compensation, etc., is so colossal as to make construction in these lines almost prohibitive.

Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity of the design and construction being dealt with by men who have had world-wide experience, and the whole case should be put before Engineers of unquestioned authority to decide on the course to adopt.

The hush tactics that have been pursued in connection with the project is galling to interested parties in Calcutta. The Government might take the public more into their confidence and publish what has been done, and what they propose to do.

My one desire, Sir, is to get full value for our expenditure, and the best type of bridge at the least cost, and that cannot be done unless you advertise widely and invite all those with big bridge-building experience to send advice and designs.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: This is a subject which requires careful and anxious consideration. There are three questions of fundamental importance which arise in this connection. In the first place, we have to consider what type of bridge would be best suited to our purpose. In the second place, what is the best way of financing the bridge? And in the third place, what should be the proper authority to construct and maintain the bridge?

As regards the first, a cantilever bridge is contemplated in this Bill. Now, there is, as has been pointed out by the previous speakers, a great deal of difference of opinion on this point, and some eminent authorities hold that the cantilever type is not the best. We should consider in this connection whether the soil on both sides of the river will really be able to maintain a huge structure like this; and also whether in case the bridge fails, it will be a danger to the river.

As regards the financial proposals, there is, again, a great divergence of opinion. The Finance Committee, which was appointed by Government, reported in favour of certain proposals. But there was a strong

minority, consisting of two Europeans and all the non-official Indians except one, which was opposed to these proposals. The proposals of the majority of the Finance Committee are, roughly these: that the bridge should be financed by means of a loan of Rs. 6,38,00,000 involving an annual expenditure of nearly Rs. 32 lakhs, and that there should be taxes on the trade of the city coming by sea, by river, and by rail, and also on passengers, besides additional municipal taxes on the inhabitants of Calcutta and its suburbs. The question is are the trade and the general community able to bear the burden of this fresh taxation? In this connection, we should also consider whether it is not desirable to have a less costly bridge rather than to indulge in a very costly luxury or what has been described by the Committee as a "civic amenity." Some European members of this Committee strongly opposed the financial proposals and even the recommendation as to the type of bridge. Mr. Oakley, for instance, said that at a time of financial stringency and trade depression throughout the world it was "particularly inappropriate to launch out into an enormous and unknown capital expenditure which, if the method of finance proposed was adopted, must of necessity impose an additional burden on the trade of the port for the next 60 years." Another European gentleman, Mr. St. Gilmore, Traffic Manager of the Eastern Bengal Railway, said that at the present time a cantilever bridge was "beyond the means of Calcutta and its neighbourhood." Mr. S. N. Mallik, the then Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, asserted that the present scheme was "beyond available means and resources."

As regards the third point, viz., what body is to be constituted which will construct and maintain this bridge, I submit that the Calcutta Improvement Trust, which under the provision of the Bill is to be the authority, is not sufficiently representative of the people, and it will not be desirable to entrust this body with such important work. These are very important questions, and I do not know whether it will be possible to discuss these questions at the Select Committee. It may be ruled by the Chairman of the Select Committee that these questions are questions of principle which cannot be discussed. I therefore strongly object to the Bill being referred to a Select Committee and support the motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker that the Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion.

Dr. H. W. B. MORENO: I am afraid some of the last speakers have had a confusion of ideas in their minds with regard to the question of the Howrah Bridge now before the Council. I always understood my friend, Babu Debi Prasad Khaitan, to be a man of such a clear, cut state of mind as not to confuse issues. I notice, however, that he has confused the issues that are before this Council. In the first instance, he tells us that the Hon'ble Minister has threatened us that the Howrah Bridge at the present moment is in a bad way and requires immediate repairs and that something, at any rate, should be substituted for it. After

telling us that we shall have to do something, he jumps at once to another question, that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting opinion; and thus digresses lamentably. Mr. Campbell Forrester, on the other hand, has given us all the intricacies of mechanical engineering as to the various types of bridge that could be placed over the river and has gone into details, which is not at all necessary to do at this stage when the Bill is generally introduced in the House. Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea also tells us that he fears that the Committee itself will not be permitted to discuss the question of the type of bridge that could be laid over the river. Now, I maintain that these hon'ble gentlemen have not quite understood what the Hon'ble Minister has said. (A voice: Nobody could hear what the said.) What he distinctly said is this, that this House is not tied down to any special type of bridge and that that would largely be a matter which would come up before the Select Committee. What he also said is that in the present state of things the Howrah Bridge requires immediate attention and that something must be done by substitution or otherwise. I do not think that there is any sane member of this Council who will deny that the present bridge is in a very dangerous state at the present moment. We have had ample evidence of that already. We have had people telling us that it has already served 25 years beyond the life which it was expected to live. We know that recently it did give way seriously and caused great dislocation to traffic. We also know that large sums of money have been spent and are even now being spent on the bridge in order to afford access to the other side of the river. The whole question, therefore, is this: Is not the question of a new bridge a matter of immediate concern? If we resolve that it is a matter which concerns us vitally at the present moment, we have got to go to work, and the sooner we do so the better. The next thing is, what is the type of bridge that is to be put over the river? I think that that is very clear in the Bill itself. Reading through the provisions of the Bill, there is nothing to show that the Committee, that are to be charged with the Bill, are tied down to any type of bridge—either cantilever or pontoon—though I admit that in the statement of Objects and Reasons there is a reference to the cantilever type. But, Sir, the whole question could be discussed when the Committee will go thoroughly into the question. If the Committee think that the cost will be far too heavy for the people of Calcutta to bear, or that a cantilever bridge is not necessary for Calcutta, it is up to the Council to vote a lesser sum and to have a more suitable type of bridge, and there the matter could end. As I understood the Hon'ble Minister's speech, he said that Government were prepared to accept any type which this Committee thought would be fair and proper to be built across the river. I think that disposes of the whole question of a cantilever bridge and of the strong controversy that is raging outside the streets of Calcutta, the dust of which has even penetrated into sacred hall. If that be the position, if the

Committee be prepared to go into the whole question of the type of bridge to be adopted, let us leave it to the Committee itself. Now, we have been told that we have not invited public opinion on the subject. I think the columns of the daily press have been overfull with this question of the Howrah Bridge and of the different types of bridge that could be adopted. We have heard it from the Hon'ble Finance Member that the Committee will not sit for three months and that in the meantime the matter will be discussed anew by the public bodies of Calcutta. I am sure the Committee will welcome any opinion that is useful and valuable to direct it in its deliberations. Sir, it seems to me that the whole question before this Council is—are you really anxious to settle now this question of the Howrah Bridge? If so, get to work at once and let us not discuss all the intricacies—as to what type will be necessary or suitable—leave that to the Committee and allow public bodies to give their opinions in the meantime. When the matter comes up at the next stage before the Council, let us discuss the Bill in the fullest detail and suggest whatever amendments that may be brought forward, for the House has full power to do that. As we know, many a Bill has been mangled and put into a different shape and eventually passed in a different form altogether by this Council (Question!) I hardly think there can be question to a statement of that kind. If the Bill be presented again before the Council and we decide to put any further amendments to the Bill, we shall be perfectly at liberty to do so at that time. At the present stage, I recommended that the Bill be put to the Committee stage as early as possible, and that in the meantime public bodies that do desire to express an opinion be invited to do so. The Select Committee that have been charged with the Bill will have full power to suggest any type that they think right and proper to be put across the river leaving this House free to discuss anew details, after the Bill has passed through the Committee stage.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Allow me, Sir, to say that Dr. Moreno is himself suffering from a confusion of ideas, because there is a vast difference between the suggestion of the Minister and what has been suggested in the amendment of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker. The Minister says that the Select Committee that we have just appointed shall not meet for three months. Let the public come forward with their opinions. Dr. Moreno says that the public have already expressed their opinion in the press. What the amendment distinctly says is that it should be incumbent on the authorities to elicit public opinion. There is, therefore, a vast difference between the two. In the one case you have the public coming forward to express opinions—and I do not know whether any experts will care to write to the daily press unless such opinion is asked for and he knows that it will be acted upon. What the amendment really wants is that it shall be incumbent on the authorities to ask for such public opinion. As a matter of fact, every member of the Council must have received several papers dealing with the proposed

Howrah Bridge. I am not an expert myself, nor is Dr. Moreno. The Select Committee also have no expert engineers on it. I am afraid therefore, that the Select Committee even if it so desires cannot be expected to discuss the various propositions that may be brought up before them to modify the conclusion arrived at by the experts Committee which was presided over by Sir Rajendra Nath Mukharji. Therefore in order to test the correctness of these proposals it is necessary to have equally expert opinion. Therefore, there is very good reason why the Bill should be circulated for opinion of the public and of experts. But there are other reasons for which the matter ought to be placed before the public for criticism. On referring to the book written by two expert gentlemen, viz., Messrs. Vernon and Harcourt, I find that they have said that a floating bridge is preferable to a fixed bridge, owing to the silty bed of the river and the amount of time the construction of a fixed bridge would have occupied. They also mentioned that the present bridge was built in the year 1873, at a cost of £182,000, or roughly amounting to Rs. 20 lakhs. At the present moment there is a scheme before us for spending not Rs. 20 lakhs, not Rs. 200 lakhs, but Rs. 634 lakhs. Therefore, when we find that experts differ to such an extent, it is essential that experts must come to our help to guide us as to what type of bridge should be constructed. There is another reason why it should be put before the public. One of the objects of this bridge is to connect Howrah—one of the most insanitary spots on the face of the earth with Bara Bazar, an equally insanitary area; and both these places require a large amount of money for improvements. I believe that when the question came up before the Corporation it was stated that the Bara Bazar area alone would require several crores of rupees—I think 12 crores for the removal of the insanitary conditions. Therefore, the question is whether these two areas are to remain as they are or are they to be improved first? If they are to be improved, where are you going to get the money? Now, Sir, the money required for the construction of the bridge is supposed to be realised from taxes. I will read out just two sentences from clause 8 of the proposed Bill:—

A tax of three pies on every passenger brought to or taken from any station named in the said First Schedule by railway in respect of each single journey so made by him ;

Provided that the said tax may in the case of passengers taken suburban season tickets be calculated at the rate of six annas each per mensem for each such ticket or at such lower rate as the local Government may, by notification, prescribe.

We all know that no less than half a lakh of people—mostly clerks serving in the different offices in Calcutta—have to cross the bridge. Why have they to live outside Calcutta? It is because they cannot afford to stay in Calcutta. And you propose to levy a charge of 3 pies on every passenger who uses the bridge. On a very modest calculation a man with an average income of Rs. 40 a month will have to pay Rs. 5-10 a year for coming to Calcutta, i.e., the incidence of the taxation on such a man will be $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Then, again, there is the proposal to tax

every passenger who crosses the river in a ferry boat. We know that a large number of coolies who cross from one side of the river to the other will also have to pay such a tax. It is easy to realise how difficult it will be for such people to pay this tax. Then, again, it has been proposed to increase the municipal taxes in Calcutta and Howrah. If it is proposed to increase the taxes, I suggest that the municipal authorities of these places and the public ought to be allowed to express their opinion as to whether they are agreeable to pay any increased taxes to defray the cost of building a bridge which will be used only by a certain section of the public.

Apart from this direct method of taxation, the people of Calcutta and those who remain in and around the neighbourhood of Calcutta shall also have to pay an indirect taxation in the matter of paying more for the necessities of life, because all goods coming to Calcutta, except a few, will also be taxed. These are questions, Sir, which primarily and vitally affect the members of the public, and therefore the public should be allowed to express their opinion—and that, I think, is the second reason for bringing this matter to the notice of the public. Thirdly, it has been observed by Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea that Mr. St. Gilmore of the Eastern Bengal Railway had objected to the scheme. It is just possible, as it has been rumoured, that the East Indian Railway might divert this main line across the river to the Sealdah side. If that be so, the necessity of having a strong bridge for heavy load traffic might be found to be eventually unnecessary. Under these circumstances, I suggest that the motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker should be carried, because all those parties who are vitally interested in the question of having a bridge should be consulted.

Sir GEORGE GODFREY: I do not propose to detain the House long over this subject, because I do not consider that this is the right time to go into the merits of any particular bridge or the details of the Bill. The last speaker has discussed the Bill in detail; that is, however, a matter for the Select Committee, if the Bill goes to that Committee, and the House can discuss it afterwards. It is therefore a mere waste of time to discuss the particular type of bridge or the details of the clauses of the proposed Bill. All I wish to say is that the motion now before the House at the moment appears to me to be one which would mean dangerous delay. The last speaker has referred to the opinions of experts who have reported on this very question. I am an expert to some extent and I probably know more about the condition of the present Howrah Bridge than anybody in this House. I examined the bridge some years ago when it was undergoing urgent repairs, and I was absolutely horrified at the state of the girders. I do wish to press on the House that they should not waste time now or this year at all, in trying to defer action on the construction of a new bridge. Calcutta and Howrah must be connected, and there must be a new bridge with as little delay as possible. I strongly recommend that the Bill should

go to the Select Committee, which can consider it from the financial point of view, and if that Committee decides that Calcutta cannot afford a cantilever or a costly bridge, or any new bridge then Calcutta may have to get along without a bridge at all. I strongly oppose this motion, which will merely lead to delay, which I describe as dangerous delay.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: I do not want to enter into the merits of the Bill. I whole-heartedly support the motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, that the consideration of the Bill be postponed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sarker has moved that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH GANGULY: That is tantamount to postponement. I endorse the views of Babu Debi Prosad Khaitan and Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, that this Bill should be circulated to public bodies for their opinion. Of course the Bill affects Howrah vitally as well as other municipalities, and as a considerable amount of money has been required to be contributed by the Howrah Municipality, it must be fortified by the considered opinion of the Commissioners of the Howrah Municipality. I have personal knowledge of the fact that the Commissioners of the Howrah Municipality have appointed a special committee to consider the detailed provisions of the Bill, and the report of that committee, together with the recommendations of the general body of Commissioners, will come up before Government shortly. Similarly, the Calcutta Corporation are also considering the details of the Bill. Regard being had to all these facts, I fully support the view of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, that the Bill be circulated to public bodies for their opinion before it goes to a Select Committee.

Babu BORODA PROSAD DEY: As a member representing some of the most important riparian municipalities, I beg to enter my strong protest against the introduction of the Bill in its present form. I say that at least my constituents are vitally affected in the financial side of the Bill, and it is only necessary that public opinion should be invited as to the financial side of this Bill before it is at all referred to a Select Committee, which, as I understand, is always appointed to settle the details of the Bill and not to enter into the principles and general merits of the Bill. So before this is referred to a Select Committee, the opinion of not only the public bodies in Calcutta, but the opinion of mufassal people, who, having got to come to Calcutta every day, will be vitally affected by the financial side of this Bill, should be invited in regard to this matter. Nothing has been done up to now to invite their opinion. Certain committees have been appointed, who have gone into this question of the type of bridge and other matters connected therewith. They

have not considered the question how this Bill affects the persons who have got to come to Calcutta every day for service or other business; so I beg to submit that the most important part of the population which will be affected by this Bill have not been consulted and they have not had an opportunity of having their say. So I beg most strongly to support the motion of my friend, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, that before it is sent to a Select Committee public opinion should be invited, and then it will be time for the Council to consider the Bill and to refer it to any Committee.

The Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. ABU AHMED KHAN CHUZNAVI:

I am grateful to two of my friends, Dr. Moreno and Sir George Godfrey, for having explained clearly what I myself would have said in reply to the remarks of the members of this House. It only remains for me to make it quite clear that Government are not committed to any particular type of bridge at all. What is proposed to be done now is to refer this Bill to a Select Committee and that Committee will decide what money will be available. It will then come up before the Council and it will then be up to them to decide what type of bridge can be built for that money.

Now, Sir, as regards the question of eliciting public opinion, I stated distinctly that the Select Committee will not sit before another three months. In the meanwhile it will be our duty to elicit public opinion all round. I think that will meet the case of my friend who moved this amendment. But as I understand it, I cannot accept this amendment, as its effect will simply be to delay the matter, which is distinctly urgent. It is quite possible that one fine morning when we get up we will find that there is no bridge at all, and so I am afraid I cannot possibly agree to this amendment. It would be most unwise to postpone the consideration of an important matter like this. Government have taken every possible care of putting before the House the opinions of experts, and it is for the House and the Select Committee to consider what they will do. For these reasons, Sir, I cannot accept the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: The effect of accepting the amendment of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker for the circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion means that the motion for reference to a Select Committee is lost. That means that the whole Bill will be delayed till another meeting of the Council, when it will then have to go to a Select Committee. Our proposal is that the Select Committee should be appointed now and that the Bill be sent out to all bodies, municipal or otherwise, and everybody concerned, now. These opinions will be received and they will be available to the Select Committee when they sit after three months' time. That is to say, that the Select Committee can get to work before the next meeting of the Council, and therefore there will be no delay. The Select Committee can go into the whole

of this question, and the type of the bridge and the amount of revenue that will be raised from taxation can be determined. In determining the taxation, the Select Committee practically determine the design of the bridge. So I suggest to Babu Naliniranjan Sarker that he withdraw his motion, because we do not want to delay the Bill. It will be circulated, as he desires, for public opinion, and these opinions will be available to the Select Committee.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: I want to know one thing—if that Committee will be competent to make a reference to the Central Government for contribution ?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: They can ask the local Government to make a reference.

Babu NALINIRANJAN SARKER: I would also like to know if after the end of three months the matter must come up before the Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: Not if we appoint the Select Committee now. Their report to the Council will come in due course.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The difficulty is that the Select Committee will not be doing any work at the present moment, but if the opinion of the public be against the Bill altogether, then what is the object of having a Select Committee ?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: In that case the Select Committee can recommend to this Council that the Bill be not proceeded with.

Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: That will be rather an obstructive method.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: What I suggest is that you should withdraw this motion for circulation, because it will be circulated.

Mr. C. R. DAS: Will this suit Mr. Donald ?—that this motion of Mr. Sarker is withdrawn on condition that public opinion or the opinion of public bodies is obtained in the course of next three months after which this matter is brought again before this Council. If this is so, we accept it, and if not we do not. There will be no delay, because the Committee will not be doing any work for the next three months. Therefore, at the end of three months, the Bill can be placed before this Council.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But what will happen to the Select Committee ?

Mr. C. R. DAS: The Select Committee will remain where it is.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think I ought to make it quite clear that if Nalini Babu's motion is carried the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee falls to the ground. No Select Committee will be in existence and the Council will have to reappoint a Select Committee when the Bill comes up again.

Mr. C. R. DAS: The Select Committee is there; only the motion for reference to it will be brought up.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: The whole of that motion falls to the ground. The Select Committee will not exist and there will have to be another motion to refer to a Select Committee.

Mr. C. R. DAS: Then all that it means is half an hour's time to appoint a Select Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: But it may be more than three months before the Council sits again. The Council may not sit in November and therefore the scheme will be delayed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And this Committee will not exist.

Mr. C. R. DAS: I accept the President's direction, but then the appointment of another Committee can only take about half an hour's time; nothing further. Of course if you have any doubt about the Council meeting again or if the Council is prorogued, then you cannot accept the suggestion,

The motion of Babu Naliniranjan Sarker was then put and a division was called and taken.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It has been represented to me that two members entered the Council Chamber after the division bell ceased to ring. Their votes will not be recorded.

The result of the division was then declared as follows:—

AYES.

Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin.
 Ahmed, Maulvi Tayebuddin.
 Ahmed, Maulvi Zannoor.
 Ali, Maulvi Sayyed Sultan.
 Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra.
 Banerjia, Dr. Pramathanath.
 Banerjee, Babu Satya Kishore.
 Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
 Basu, Babu Sarat Chandra.
 Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna.
 Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes.
 Chakravorti, Babu Jogindra Chandra.
 Chakravorty, Babu Sudarsan.
 Chatterjee, Babu Umes Chandra.
 Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
 Chaudhury, Maulvi Md. Nurul Huq.
 Chaudhury, Maulvi Salyed Abdur Rob.
 Chunder, Mr. Nirmal Chandra.
 Das, Dr. Mohini Mohon.
 Das, Mr. C. R.
 Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra.
 Daud, Mr. M.
 Dey, Babu Boroda Prosad.
 Gafur, Maulvi Abdul.
 Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath.
 Goenka, Babu Badridas.
 Guha, Mr. P. N.

Haldar, Mr. S. N.
 Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
 Hoque, Maulvi Sayedal.
 Hossain, Maulvi Wahed.
 Joardar, Maulvi Aftab Hossain.
 Khaitan, Babu Debi Prosad.
 Khan, Babu Debendra Lal.
 Khan, Maulvi Abdur Raschid.
 Khan, Maulvi Amanat.
 Khan, Maulvi Mahi Uddin.
 Mahammad, Maulvi Basar.
 Maitly, Babu Mahendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Jogendra Nath.
 Mitra, Babu Satyendra Chandra.
 Mitter, Sir Provash Chunder.
 Mukerjee, Babu Tarakanath.
 Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
 Neogi, Babu Manmohon.
 Quader, Maulvi Abdul.
 Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
 Ray, Babu Abanish Chandra.
 Ray, Babu Anilbaran.
 Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan.
 Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
 Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar.
 Ray, Kumar Shih Shekhareswar.
 Roy, Babu Manmatha Nath.

Roy, Babu Satowripati.
 Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra.
 Roy, Mr. D. N.
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
 Roy, Raja Manilal Singh.
 Roy Chaudhury, Babu Brajendra Kishore.
 Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra
 Nath.
 Sarkar, Babu Hemanta Kumar.

Sarker, Babu Naliniranjana.
 Sarkar, Maulvi Atiah Suksh.
 Sasmal, Mr. B. N.
 Sen, Mr. N. C.
 Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M.
 Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
 Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.
 Tarafdar, Maulvi Rajib Uddin.

NOES.

Addams-Williams, Mr. C.
 Aiy, Mr. S. Mahboob.
 Band, Mr. R. N.
 Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinash Chandra.
 Beg, Khan Bahadur Mirza Shuja'at Ali.
 Carey, Sir Willoughby.
 Choinuddin, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md.
 Cohen, Mr. D. J.
 Cooper, Mr. C. C.
 Corcoran, Mr. B. J.
 Currie, Mr. W. C.
 Das, Babu Charu Chandra.
 Day, Mr. C. C.
 Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
 Dutt, Mr. C. S.
 Eddis, Mr. B. E. C.
 Emerson, the Hon'ble Mr. T.
 Farouqi, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
 Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
 Ghuznavi, the Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu
 Ahmed Khan.
 Godfrey, Sir George.
 Goode, Mr. S. W.
 Gordon, Mr. A. D.
 Heard, Major General R.

Hossain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Musharruf.
 Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
 Huq, the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
 James, F. E.
 Jameson, Mr. A. K.
 Lal Mahammad, Haji.
 Liddell, Mr. H. C.
 Marr, Mr. A.
 Moberly, Mr. A. N.
 Moreno, Dr. H. W. B.
 Oaten, Mr. E. F.
 Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
 Phelps, Mr. T. J.
 Philip, Mr. J. Y.
 Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur.
 Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur
 Kshaunish Chandra.
 Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.
 Roy, Mr. S. N.
 Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
 Skinner, Mr. S. A.
 Swan, Mr. J. A. L.
 Travers, Mr. W. L.
 Villiers, Mr. Edward.
 Woodhead, Mr. J. A.

The Ayes being 70 and the Noes 48, the motion was carried.

Prorogation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to declare that the Council stands prorogued until such date as may be notified hereafter.

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